

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

August 16, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. O. D. Parr, Chief
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 3
Division of Project Management
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Serial No. 664
LQA/ESG:esh

Docket Nos. 50-338
50-339
License No. NPF-4

Dear Mr. Denton:

POWER COASTDOWN OPERATION FOR
NORTH ANNA UNITS 1 AND 2
CYCLE 1

As recently discussed with the NRC Staff (reference telephone conversation between Messrs. O. D. Parr, K. Kniel, and M. S. Dunenfeld of the NRC Staff and M. L. Bowling and E. S. Grecheck of Vepco, on August 10, 1979), we plan to extend the length of Cycle 1 by up to approximately 26 effective full power days (EFPD) through a power coastdown mode of operation.

Since this mode of operation is not explicitly discussed in the FSAR for North Anna Units 1 and 2, we have conducted a detailed safety evaluation. The results of this evaluation indicated that there will be no adverse impact on reactor systems or reactor operations. Further, each of the core physics parameters important to the FSAR Chapter 15 transients were reevaluated and the conclusion that all Chapter 15 transients meet the original FSAR safety criteria has been reaffirmed. The Rod Cluster Control Assembly Ejection transient (HZP case) was reanalyzed and found to meet, with margin, all safety criteria for this transient.

Consequently, continued operation of Cycle 1 in a power coastdown mode for approximately 26 EFPD will not require any changes to the Technical Specifications or involve an unreviewed safety question. It should be noted that Vepco has obtained considerable experience with this mode of operation at the Surry Power Station, and this mode of operation is routinely incorporated into reload license amendments.

The safety evaluation has been reviewed by both the Station Nuclear Safety and Operating Committee and the System Nuclear Safety and Operating Committee. It has been determined that no unreviewed safety questions, as defined in 10 CFR 50.59, will be created by the power coastdown mode of operation.

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This letter is provided for your information. However, should you have any questions, please contact us at your earliest convenience, as we plan to implement the power coastdown mode of operation for North Anna Unit 1 during the last part of August 1979.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Stallings

C. M. Stallings
Vice President-Power Supply
and Production Operations

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region II

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