

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

September 21, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 1
Division of Operating Reactors
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Serial No. 769
FR/MLB
LQA/ESG:esh
Docket Nos. 50-338
50-339
License No. NPF-4

Dear Mr. Denton:

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

As discussed during a telephone conversation with Mr. M. S. Dunenfeld of the Staff on September 17, 1979, we plan to extend the length of Cycle 1 by up to approximately 10.4 effective full power days (EFPD) through a power coastdown mode of operation. This extension is in addition to the 26 EFPD extension discussed in our letter of August 16, 1979 (Serial No. 664).

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 reevaluated and found to meet, with margin, all safety criteria for this transient.

Consequently, continued operation of Cycle 1 in a power coastdown mode for an additional 10.4 EFPD (i.e., a total of approximately 36.4 EFPD beyond the end of full power reactivity) will not require any changes to the Technical Specifications nor involve an unreviewed safety question. Vepco has obtained considerable experience with this mode of operation at both the North Anna and the Surry Power Stations, 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 extended power coastdown mode of operation for North Anna 1 during the last part of this month.

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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