

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

February 10, 1997

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20005

Serial No. 97-015
NLOS/ETS: R0
Docket Nos. 50-338
50-339
License Nos. NPF-4
NPF-7

Dear Sir:

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
NORTH ANNA POWER STATION UNITS 1 AND 2
PERIODIC TESTING OF DOW CORNING SILICONE FOAM

During construction of North Anna Power Station, Dow Corning Silicone Foam was used as fire barrier penetration sealant. At that time, data was not available on the long term aging characteristics of this material and what effect it might have on fire protection properties. Therefore, as part of the Operating License process, we committed to maintain foam samples at the plant and observe these samples periodically over the life of the plant for signs of deterioration. Since 1976, sample material has been maintained and periodically evaluated (approximately every 5 years) for density changes as well as comparatively tested in flammability tests. Additionally, installed penetration seals using this foam have been subject to inspection for cracking and foam depth as part of a general plant periodic test of penetration seals.

Based on the sample evaluation results, we have determined that the material's fire protection properties are not adversely affected by aging and that the continued maintenance and periodic observation and testing of the Dow Corning Silicone Foam samples is no longer warranted. This letter is to inform the Staff that our commitment to maintain and periodically observe/test the Dow Corning Silicone Foam samples is hereby discontinued.

Existing plant inspections performed on fire barriers and the penetrations within the barriers will not be affected by this action. The station fire barriers will continue to be inspected periodically to ensure their fire protection function is maintained.

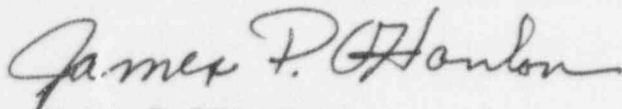
9702190329 970210
PDR ADDOCK 05000338
P PDR

190001

ADDOK

This letter does not establish any new commitments. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. O'Hanlon".

James P. O'Hanlon
Senior Vice President - Nuclear

cc: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Regional Administrator
Region II
101 Marietta Street, N. W
Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. R. D. McWhorter
NRC Senior Resident Inspector
North Anna Power Station