

November 18, 2009

Dr. Mario V. Bonaca, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF'S SAFETY
EVALUATION REPORT WITH OPEN ITEMS REGARDING THE NORTH ANNA
UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Dr. Bonaca:

I am responding to your letter from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) dated October 23, 2009. The letter addressed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with open items (OIs) related to the North Anna Combined License (COL) application. The ACRS discussed the SER with OIs during the 566th meeting of the ACRS on October 8-10, 2009. Previously, the ACRS Economic Simplified Boiling-Water Reactor (ESBWR) Subcommittee held meetings in June, July, and August 2009, to discuss technical aspects of the COL application and the OIs identified in the staff's SER.

The ACRS concluded that there are no significant issues, at this time, with the COL application and recommended that the staff proceed with the review process. The ACRS noted, and the staff acknowledges, the challenges related to the staff's concurrent reviews of the ESBWR design certification (DC) application and the North Anna COL application. The final SER for the ESBWR DC is a prerequisite to be completed for the final SER for the North Anna COL application.

Thank you for your comments. I appreciate the willingness of the ACRS to engage with the staff on the first of the COL application SER reviews. I believe this process has facilitated the staff's work and look forward to continued staff interactions with the committee regarding the North Anna COL application.

Sincerely,

/RA Gary Holahan for/

Michael R. Johnson, Director
Office of New Reactors

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Klein
Commissioner Svinicki
SECY
EDO

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Letter to Mario V. Bonaca from Michael R. Johnson dated November 18, 2009

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REPORT WITH OPEN ITEMS REGARDING THE NORTH ANNA UNIT 3
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

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