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US NRC

64FR 40394
July 26, 1999



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VIRGINIA POWER

January 4, 2000

Mr. David L. Meyer
Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Mail Stop T-6 D59
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

99-741

**Subject: Endorsement of Public Comments on the
Pilot Program for the New Regulatory Oversight Program**

Dear Mr. Meyer:

This letter is to provide Virginia Power's strong endorsement of the comments made by the Nuclear Energy Institute on December 29, 1999, concerning the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's revised reactor oversight process.

Virginia Power firmly believes the revised oversight process will be much improved over the existing process. The revised objectivity, scrutability and focus on safety significant issues of reactor operation will be beneficial to all stakeholders. While there is much to be done to make this revised process a standard model for regulation, the pilot program clearly demonstrated that the revised program objectives are achievable. We strongly encourage the NRC to continue with the implementation of this important program.

Virginia Power also strongly urges the NRC to resolve NEI's issue of enforcement policy for inadvertent performance indicator data submittals in a manner consistent with the safety significance of the errors. This issue must be resolved prior to full implementation of the new program in April 2000.

Sincerely,

James H. McCarthy, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Operations Support