

February 14, 2000

LICENSEES: DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

FACILITIES: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
SURRY POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING TO DISCUSS SUBMITTAL OF FUTURE LICENSE
RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

On January 12, 2000, representatives of Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) and Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to discuss their plans for submitting license renewal applications. Duke has expressed interest in submitting concurrent license renewal applications for its McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Stations in June 2001. Similarly, VEPCO has expressed interest in submitting concurrent applications for its Surry and North Anna Nuclear Stations in September 2001. The joint meeting with Duke and VEPCO was held to discuss the form of the applications with the goal of identifying efficiencies both for the applicant's preparation and the NRC staff's review of the renewal applications. Both licensees have begun preparing their renewal applications and intend to use the standard format established between the NRC staff and the industry (see the Nuclear Energy Institute letter to the staff dated September 22, 1999). Attendees at the meeting are listed in Attachment 1.

The approach used by a licensee submitting concurrent applications may vary depending on the degree of similarity between the two stations and the method of submittal. The staff is not trying at this time to establish one standard that all applicants filing concurrent applications must follow. VEPCO is planning on making its submittal electronically using CD-ROMs which affects the formatting of the applications. Duke is still evaluating whether to use electronic submittal or paper copies and is monitoring the evolution of the staff's use of electronic submittals and which method is most efficient for staff review.

VEPCO evaluated three options for preparing the Surry and North Anna renewal applications as described in their presentation materials contained in Attachment 2. Based on their evaluations, VEPCO decided to prepare complete, separate applications for each station with the information common to both stations highlighted. This approach allows the staff to review common material only once and is easiest for VEPCO to prepare and for each station to review. With electronic submittal, the common material will be identified and hyper-linked. Hyper-links will also be provided within the application and to referenced material, such as the updated final safety analysis report (UFSAR), which VEPCO is planning to provide on a CD-ROM. An example of how common material would be highlighted was provided (Attachment 3).

VEPCO also provided an example of the Surry application table of contents (Attachment 4). Although VEPCO is, in general, following the standard format established, minor changes were made. Duke also indicated that they were considering minor changes in the standard format. The staff emphasized that in order to achieve efficiency not only in the preparation and review of renewal applications, but also in the development of implementation guidance such as the standard review plan, it is imperative that a standard format be established and followed by everyone. If changes need to be made to the standard format based on experience gained by the licensees currently preparing applications, then the staff and NEI need to address these proposed changes. Input is also needed from Entergy and Southern Nuclear Operating Company regarding their experience using the standard format to prepare the Arkansas Nuclear One and Hatch applications, respectively. VEPCO and Duke stated that they are also both interacting with Florida Power and Light which will submit the first renewal application for a Westinghouse plant, Turkey Point, in December 2000.

Duke stated that there is a high degree of similarity between their McGuire and Catawba stations. Duke plans to prepare a technical information document to address the requirements of 10 CFR 54.21(a), (b), and (c) that covers both stations, with differences between stations identified where needed. Plant specific documents would be provided that reference the technical information document and would contain the station-specific required administrative information [§54.19], UFSAR supplement [§54.21(d)], technical specification changes, if any [§54.22], and environmental report [§54.54.23]. Duke expects a lot of similarity between their Oconee Nuclear Station renewal application currently under review by the staff and the McGuire and Catawba applications. The format for the McGuire and Catawba applications was provided (Attachment 5).

During the meeting, a number of questions were raised regarding the staff's review of concurrent applications that need further investigation:

- Will the staff prepare one safety evaluation report (SER) covering both stations, separate SERs for each station with common information repeated, or possibly station-specific SERs with a common reference document?
- Is the 30-month schedule still applicable for concurrent applications? Portions of the review are common to both stations such as aging management programs but others are station-specific such as scoping and the environmental review.
- How will the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and the Commission review concurrent applications with the degree of similarity but also station-specific differences?
- Can the staff simplify how it bills for its review of the concurrent applications? Normally, the staff assigns one Technical Assignment Control number (TAC) per unit and per activity which would result in a significant number of TACs being opened for these concurrent applications involving two stations, four units, and multiple review activities. VEPCO has one project for both stations and could accept one TAC covering charges for both stations. Duke is tracking each station separately because of two separate budgets for the activity but does not need to track charges by units.

February 14, 2000

The meeting provided a good forum to discuss not only Duke and VEPCO's plans for preparing and submitting concurrent renewal applications, but also to discuss use of electronic submittals and the application standard format. The staff understands the basic approach planned by Duke and VEPCO for preparing its applications and will provide comments if any concerns are identified. It is important that dialogue continue between the applicants and the staff during the preparation of the applications to ensure that the final format achieves the efficiencies desired.

/RA/

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Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369, and 50-370 (Duke)
50-338, 50-339, 50-280, and 50-281 (VEPCO)

Attachments: As stated

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