

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

February 21, 2001

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Serial No. 01-103  
NL&OS/ETS  
Docket No. 50-338  
License No. NPF-4

Gentlemen:

**VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY**  
**NORTH ANNA POWER STATION UNIT 1**  
**ASME SECTION XI INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM**  
**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
**FOR ALTERNATIVE EXAMINATION OF WELD 4**

In a May 8, 2000 letter (Serial No. 00-246), Virginia Electric and Power Company (Dominion) proposed an alternative for the examination coverage requirements for reactor vessel welds in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A). Due to internal reactor vessel interferences, the required 90% examination volume could not be obtained for one of the three reactor vessel shell welds examined during the spring 2000 refueling outage. In a February 7, 2001 telephone conference call, the NRC staff requested that we provide our basis for not performing additional examination of the outside diameter of the reactor vessel weld to augment the reduced coverage obtained on the inside diameter weld examination. The following provides our basis for not performing examination of the weld on the outside diameter.

Volumetric examination of weld 4 from the outside has been considered and determined to be impractical. The examination is not feasible partially due to the congestion in the area below the vessel caused by the flux thimble guide tubes and their associated supports. Also the approximate gap between the neutron shield tank and the reactor vessel in the proximity of weld 4 is only 7½-inches. An ultrasonic examination scan from the head side of the weld would be limited as a result of the curvature of the head to shell transition. Attaining full coverage of the required examination volume above the weld is not possible due to accessibility limitations. It is our position that there would be no significant increase in examination coverage by performing the volumetric examinations from the outside of the vessel.

If you have questions concerning these requests, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



Leslie N. Hartz  
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering and Services

Commitments made in this letter: None

A047

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth St., SW, Suite 23T85  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. M. J. Morgan  
NRC Senior Resident Inspector  
North Anna Power Station

Mr. M. Grace  
Authorized Nuclear Inspector  
North Anna Power Station

Mr. J. E. Reasor, Jr.  
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative  
Innsbrook Corporate Center  
4201 Dominion Blvd.  
Suite 300  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060