

March 29, 2001

Mr. W. R. Matthews
Vice President-Nuclear Operations
Virginia Electric and Power Company
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY NRC STAFF GUIDANCE FOR 10 CFR PART 72 LICENSE
RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Matthews:

On February 8, 2001, staff from the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Spent Fuel Project Office met with members of your staff from the Virginia Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power) in a public meeting at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to continue discussions regarding the development of guidance for the renewal of 10 CFR Part 72 licenses for independent spent fuel storage installations (ISFSI). At that meeting, NRC staff described their current thinking on materials issues affecting renewal and responded to previous comments from Virginia Power on earlier draft renewal guidance issued by the staff in June of 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the staff has completed its initial effort to develop review guidance for the renewal of site-specific Part 72 licenses. This draft guidance is enclosed for your consideration. In keeping with the cooperative effort between the NRC and Virginia Power in the development of this guidance, we would appreciate any additional comments or recommendations that you may wish to provide. It is also our intention to make this guidance available for comment from other stakeholders, including those from industry and members of the public.

Please note that the attached document is intended to serve as preliminary guidance for use by NRC staff in the review of site-specific license renewal applications for spent fuel dry cask storage facilities. It is also intended to assist applicants in identifying the information to be included in such a renewal application. This guidance is under development and will be revised, as appropriate, based on comments received and further information gained from research programs and operational experience regarding dry cask storage of spent fuel.

We currently anticipate that Virginia Power will submit a renewal application for the Surry ISFSI in the second quarter of calendar year 2002. We will continue to work with you and your staff during the preparation of your renewal application to identify and resolve any emerging issues related to the ongoing development of this guidance.

W. R. Matthews

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If you have any comments or questions regarding the attached preliminary guidance, please contact Mr. James R. Hall of my staff at (301) 415-1336.

Sincerely,
/RA/ original signed by /s/
E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Preliminary Guidance for License Renewal for Site-Specific
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSIs)

Docket Nos. 72-2 (50-280/281)

W. R. Matthews

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Enclosure

**Preliminary Guidance for License Renewal for Site-Specific
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSIs)**

March 2001