

June 6, 2001

LICENSEES: VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY (VEPCO)
DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION (DUKE)
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC (EXELON)

FACILITIES: NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
SURRY POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING TO DISCUSS SCHEDULES FOR PLANNED
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

On May 21, 2001, representatives of Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), and Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to discuss the review schedules for their planned license renewal applications. Subsequent to the meeting, VEPCO submitted a renewal application for the Surry and North Anna Nuclear Stations on May 29, 2001. Duke plans on submitting a renewal application for the McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Stations on June 14, 2001. Exelon plans on submitting a renewal application for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station on July 2, 2001. Attendees at the meeting are listed in Attachment 1. NRC staff discussion materials are contained in Attachment 2.

The NRC staff discussed its draft of a new schedule model (page 1 of Attachment 2) for the review of license renewal applications that was developed based on the experience gained from the first applications. The draft model reflects the current process being used for reviewing renewal applications and provides the flexibility needed to adjust interim milestones to accommodate the high level of work expected resulting from receipt of the five applications in 2001 and in the future. This meeting began discussions with the three applicants with 2001 renewal submittals on developing integrated schedules using the new model. The goal is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the license renewal review process.

The new model maintains the current commitment to complete a renewal review within 30 months if a hearing is conducted and 25 months if there is no hearing. The staff's safety evaluation report (SER) and supplemental environmental impact statement will continue to be issued within 585 days as currently scheduled. However, the approach used in the new model is to develop the SER and requests for additional information (RAIs) at the same time to ensure that all information needed by the staff to make its safety finding is identified early. Additional time is provided during this process to allow more interaction with the applicant on the RAIs and RAI responses to ensure that the required information is obtained and for preparing the SER with open items.

Certain intermediate milestones, such as when the staff issues its RAIs or the SER with open items, may change when developing plant-specific schedules to facilitate work planning and to levelize resources. Inspection milestones and Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards meeting dates may also change after coordination with the regional office and ACRS.

Draft schedules for the five applications being submitted in 2001 were developed based on projected receipt dates to illustrate the new model (pages 2 - 4 of Attachment 2). A resource profile for the staff's review of the applications using the new model was also provided (page 5 of Attachment 2). The intent is that when the applications are received, the NRC's project managers for the reviews will coordinate with the applicant and the technical reviewers to establish a schedule that will flatten the peaks and spread the demand for staff resources. VEPCO, Duke, and Exelon agreed to review the new model and provide suggestions for changes. One change requested at the meeting was to add a milestone for issuing the inspection plan. The NRC response was that while they recognize the importance of timing associated with issuing the notice, the nature of the scope of the inspection (i.e., based on input from the technical staff review) would prohibit the ability to formalize this as a milestone.

With respect to the environmental portion of the license renewal review, the staff indicated that the model used for the upcoming applications is essentially the same as that used for previous reviews. One notable exception is that the staff will ask licensees to respond to RAIs in about 45 days, as opposed to the eight weeks used in the past. In addition, the staff pointed out that the draft schedules reflect a template with nominal dates. Because the staff will be developing five environmental impact statements (one for each site) simultaneously, the actual dates will require adjustment to avoid resource and other conflicts.

The licensees did not indicate that the change in the RAI schedule would be a problem. However, they emphasized the importance of early and frequent communications so that they would have an idea when to expect the questions and be better prepared to respond. The licensees also asked that the NRC staff share its proposed schedules for the reviews as early as possible in order to facilitate their resource planning.

After receiving comments on the draft schedules from VEPCO, Duke, and Exelon, the staff will develop a revised draft. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2001, to discuss the revised draft.

/RA/

Stephen T. Hoffman, Senior Project Manager
License Renewal and Standardization Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-338, 50-339, 50-280, and 50-281 (VEPCO)
50-413, 50-414, 50-369, and 50-370 (Duke)
and 50-227 and 50-278 (Exelon)

Attachments: As stated

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Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
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DATE: May 30, 2001

SUBJECT: NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
SURRY POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML**

DATE ENTERED: / /01

FORM 665 ATTACHED and filled out: **YES NO**

COMMITMENT FORM ATTACHED: **YES NO**

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