July 18, 2001

Mr. David A. Christian
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

SUBJECT: NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING HALON FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM (TAC NO. MB1861)

Dear Mr. Christian:

The NRC staff is continuing its review of whether a backfit is justified to convert the existing manually actuated Halon 1301 fire suppression system to an automatically actuated system at North Anna. In order for the staff to prepare an accurate cost-benefit analysis, additional information is needed. The enclosed questions were discussed with Mr. D. Sommers of your staff on July 13, 2001. We request you provide a response to the questions in the enclosure within 60 days of receipt of this letter. Please be advised that any response on your part should be considered voluntary. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Stephen Monarque at 301-415-1544.

Sincerely,

/RA by G. E. Edison for/

Stephen R. Monarque, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-338 and 50-339

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. David A. Christian
Virginia Electric and Power Company

North Anna Power Station
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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Site Vice President
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Richmond, Virginia 23219

Senior Resident Inspector
North Anna Power Station
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1024 Haley Drive
Mineral, Virginia 23117

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING REGULATORY ANALYSIS WEIGHING BOTH THE COST AND RISK REDUCTION ASSOCIATED WITH CONVERTING THE EXISTING MANUALLY ACTUATED HALON 1301 FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM TO AN AUTOMATIC ACTUATION INSTALLED IN THE EMERGENCY SWITCHGEAR ROOMS NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (NAPS) (TAC NO. MB1861)

General Questions:

Note: In answers, please make clear if the answers are on a per unit basis or a site basis.

1. The NAPS estimate for installation of the automatic Halon mod is $300K (per VEPCO letter to NRC dated 12/1/2000, Serial No. 00-391B). Please confirm that this is $150K per unit for a total of $300K for the site.

2. Can you provide a base or minimum cost associated with a NAPS plant modification? Some plants quote a number of about $50K.

3. Is there a reduction in effort anticipated for training of operators or fire brigade by converting to an automatic Halon system? If so, provide an estimate of the amount of labor saved.

4. Provide an estimate for the increase in annual maintenance costs for an automatic Halon system rather than a manual system, if any.

5. We are not aware of any spurious actuation problems for a cross-zoned automatic Halon system, such as discussed for NAPS. Is there a concern at NAPS regarding potential spurious actuations for such an automatic system? If so, are there any data regarding the frequency of such spurious actuations?

6. How is the current manual Halon system tested, and how would that change with a new automatic system? What is the difference in level of effort for the periodic testing?

7. Will there be a need to change the Technical Specifications if the automatic system is installed?

8. Will any of the work require a plant outage (and if so, how long)?

Specific Questions related to the Details of the Halon System Design:

1. NAPS plans on using an existing Fire Protection Multiplexer Panel for the new Programmable Smoke Detectors. Can the manufacturer make and model of the

existing multiplexer panel be identified, and can you provide any drawings associated with this equipment?

2. Can drawings be provided to identify the location of the existing Fire Protection Multiplexer Panel by building, column line, and floor elevation?

3. Can the manufacturer make and model of the new Programmable Smoke Detectors be provided (if determined at this time)?

4. Can the manufacturer make and model of the new Halon System releasing panels be provided (if determined at this time)?

5. Are drawings available that identify the proposed location of the new Halon System releasing panels by building, column line, and floor elevation?

6. Will the new Programmable Smoke Detectors be installed using a Genie-Lift, scaffolding, or both?

7. Will the existing manual abort station be relocated to inside the room being protected?

8. Is any work is to be performed in radiation or contaminated areas?

9. How much new conduit or instrument routing is necessary (in feet)?

10. Is any post-installation testing needed? Please specify.

11. How many procedures require changes as a result of the conversion?

12. Is the existing wiring between the Multiplexing Panel and the existing smoke detectors compatible with the new Programmable Smoke Detectors, or will new wiring be pulled?

13. Will the work be performed by plant personnel, or will an outside fire protection firm perform the conversion? Is the work to be performed by union laborers?