

August 22, 2001

Ms. Reeva Tilley
Chairman
Virginia Council on Indians
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE SURRY
POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Tilley:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Virginia Electric and Power Company (Virginia Power) to renew its operating licenses for the Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located on the Gravel Neck Peninsula in Surry County, Virginia. The plant site is approximately 8 miles east-northeast of the town of Surry, on the south side of the James River. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public participation in the environmental review. The NRC plans to hold two publicly-noticed meetings on September 19, 2001, in the site vicinity. A public meeting notice is being issued separately. We wanted to ensure that you were aware of our efforts and, pursuant to our regulations at 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites any of the tribes of Virginia to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. The application and the environmental review process are described below.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for Surry Power Station will expire in 2012 for Unit 1 and 2013 for Unit 2. Virginia Power submitted its application for license renewal in May of this year and, as part of its application, it submitted an environmental report. The application can be found on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/LR/dominion/index.html. The NRC also made arrangements with the Swem Library on the campus of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, to have this report and other related documents available for public review. In addition, these documents can be viewed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) in the Washington, DC, area. Another document, NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (GEIS) (NUREG-1437), assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site; a copy of this document can also be found in NRC PDR and on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/LR/index.html.

The NRC is gathering information for the document that will be a Surry Power Station plant-specific supplement to the GEIS. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2, that are related to the terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

R. Tilley

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Please submit any written comments the tribes in Virginia may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by October 15, 2001. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6-D-59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet to SurryEIS@nrc.gov. Comments may also be presented at the public meeting on September 19, 2001.

If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Andrew J. Kugler, Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-2828.

Sincerely,

/RA/Signed by C. Carpenter

Cynthia A. Carpenter, Chief
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial,
and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvements Program
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-280 and 50-281

R. Tilley

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Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial,
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Division of Regulatory Improvements Program
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-280 and 50-281

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DATE	08/21/01	08/21/01	08/22/01

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Virginia Electric and Power Company

Surry Power Station
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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