

July 23, 1993

Docket Nos. 50-338  
and 50-339

Mr. W. L. Stewart  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear  
Virginia Electric and Power Company  
5000 Dominion Blvd.  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Dear Mr. Stewart:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX E,  
SECTION IV.F.2 - NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS NO. 1 AND NO. 2  
(NA-1&2) (TAC NOS. M86803 AND M86804)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your letter dated June 18, 1993, which requested a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2, regarding the requirement to conduct the 1993 NA-1&2 Emergency Plan partial participation exercise presently scheduled for August 18, 1993.

This assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,  
(Original Signed By)

Leon B. Engle, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:  
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Mr. W. L. Stewart  
Virginia Electric & Power Company

North Anna Power Station  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONVIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANYNORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2DOCKET NOS. 50-338, 50-339ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix E to Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee), for the North Anna Power Station, Units No. 1 and No. 2 (NA-1&2) located in Louisa County, Virginia.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would allow temporary relief from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2., for the licensee at NA-1&2 to annually exercise its emergency plan. The one-time exemption would relieve the licensee from the requirement to conduct the 1993 NA-1&2 Emergency Plan partial participation exercise which is presently scheduled for August 18, 1993.

The request for exemption is based on the implementation of the licensee's emergency response capability during the April 24, 1993 Alert at NA-2. The licensee states that the implementation of the NA-1&2 and Corporate emergency plans, along with the demonstration of the response capability, satisfy the requirements for the partial participation (small scale) exercise demonstration as specified in the North Anna Emergency Plan.

The licensee also states that this response demonstration included involvement of the cognizant State and local jurisdictions and was critiqued by the licensee and evaluated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

As the implementation of the emergency plan was demonstrated and evaluated, the licensee concludes that the adequacy of the emergency preparedness program implementation has already been demonstrated during the year 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed in order to reduce the duplication of the demonstration of emergency response elements. The licensee states that the conduct of the exercise is an unnecessary use of Federal, company, State and local resources that would only serve to reconfirm the established adequacy of the plan as well as the company's capability to implement the plan. Performance of the 1993 NA-1&2 Emergency Plan partial participation exercise, given the licensee's specific circumstances and performance in this area, represents an undue regulatory burden with minimal benefit to public safety.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption does not involve any measurable environmental impacts since the exemption deals with the exercise of the licensee's emergency plan. Plant configuration and operations are not changed. The requirements for annual testing of the NA-1&2 Emergency Plan in a partial participation exercise in 1993 were essentially satisfied based on implementation of the licensee's emergency response during the April 24, 1993 alert at NA-2. Thus, the proposed exemption would not affect the probability

or consequences of a potential reactor accident and would not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Consequently, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption only involves the action of emergency plan exercises. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and there are no other nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the staff has concluded that there are no measurable environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require strict compliance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2., for the licensee at NA-1&2 to annually exercise its emergency plan. The 1993 NA-1&2 Emergency Plan partial participation exercise would take place during the calendar year.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This exemption from the scheduled partial participation exercise on August 18, 1993, would allow the licensee, State, local agencies and NRC, to reallocate the resources that are scheduled to support the exercise to other necessary functions.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff consulted with the State of Virginia regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated June 18, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Alderman Library, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-2498.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of July 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Bart C. Buckley*

Bart C. Buckley, Acting Director  
Project Directorate II-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation