

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
OLD DOMINION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
DOCKET NOS. 50-338 AND 50-339
NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. 50-338 and 50-339, issued to Virginia Electric and Power Company et al., (the licensee), for operation of the North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Louisa County.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would change references to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to reflect the correct permit title, Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES), eliminate references to vegetation and aquatic biota studies that were previously completed, correct a reference to 10 CFR 51.60(b)(2), replace the existing reporting requirements for unusual or important environmental events with the reporting requirements currently identified in 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(vi), replace the reference to the current Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) audit program with a reference to the Audit Program established in accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, revise the two year records retention requirement for erosion control inspection field logs to five years, change the reference to the State

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Water Control Board which is now the Department of Environmental Quality, identify the licensee's obligation to comply with Virginia regulations concerning erosion and sediment control within the transmission corridor rights-of-way to eliminate redundancy with previous EPP commitments, and recognize the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board as the regulatory authority concerning erosion within the transmission corridor rights-of-way.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 29, 1994.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to update each EPP to reflect current requirements, eliminate inconsistencies, and identify the proper regulatory agencies for certain environmental issues.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the amendment will correct inconsistencies, identify current requirements, and identify the proper regulatory agencies within the North Anna Units 1 and 2 EPPs. The majority of the changes are administrative in nature and only serve to update or clarify the information currently contained in the EPPs. The change to increase the annual inspection interval for the transmission line corridor rights-of-way from once every 12 months to once every 3 to 5 years is being made to ensure uniformity with the licensee's other transmission corridor rights-of-way. In addition, the change is being made to identify current requirements imposed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, which is responsible for reviewing and approving utility erosion and sediment control specifications.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of

accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located outside the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents. There is the possibility of a potential environmental impact associated with the change to increase the annual inspection interval for the transmission corridor rights-of-way. There is the potential for erosion to undermine the bases of a transmission tower if left unchecked. However, the licensee has noted that the erosion identified to date has not been severe. In addition, severe erosion occurs over a period of time and would allow the licensee to take action to prevent any environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are of a very low likelihood and therefore insignificant.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on December 20, 1995, the staff consulted with the Virginia State official, L. Foldese, of the Virginia Department of Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated November 29, 1994, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, 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 9th day of February 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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