

January 3, 2002

Ms. Cara H. Metz, Director
Division of Resource Services and Review
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Ms. Metz:

This letter responds to issues raised in your letter dated February 13, 2001, to Mr. William Corbin of Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCo), regarding the license renewal Environmental Reports for the Surry and North Anna Power Stations. Our response has benefitted from productive discussions between representatives of my staff and Dr. Ethel Eaton of your staff, including a meeting held at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on September 21, 2001, for Surry.

In response to your original letter, VEPCo authorized cultural resource assessments of the Surry and North Anna sites. These assessments were conducted by the Louis Berger Group, Inc., and the completed reports were delivered to VEPCo in March 2001, with an addendum to the North Anna report delivered in October 2001. A copy of the Surry report was provided to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) during our recent visit to the site in September 2001. Also during this September visit, Dr. Eaton and our consulting archaeologist, Dr. W. Bruce Masse of Los Alamos National Laboratory, had the opportunity to tour the grounds of the Surry Power Plant. Dr. Masse later reviewed the assessment report and pertinent archival records on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. We received a copy of the North Anna report and its addendum following our visit to that site in October 2001.

The NRC is acutely aware of the richness of the history in and around Gravel Neck Peninsula, and the lower James River in general. We are also aware of the potential for significant intact historic and archaeological resources to be present in the undeveloped portions of the Surry and North Anna Power Stations. We have discussed this topic at considerable length with the station managers and with other appropriate representatives from VEPCo, and are confident they share our concern for these cultural resources. Station procedures provide for the protection of cultural resources during future site activities.

Dr. Eaton, our reviewers, and the cultural resources assessment reports are in agreement that there is little likelihood that intact cultural resources exist in the presently developed portions of the Surry and North Anna Power Stations.

Because there are current operating procedures that take into account the inadvertent discovery of historic and archaeological remains at both stations, and because the license renewal is not expected to result in major refurbishment nor the need to expand operations into the currently undeveloped portions of the stations, we believe that license renewal is unlikely to

C. Metz

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affect cultural resources. We therefore also consider it unnecessary at this time to enter into a programmatic agreement pursuant to the license renewal. However, should conditions specific to either of the stations change, or should the NRC license renewal process change in general, we would be prepared to reconsider this decision.

Please let us know if you have any other questions or concerns about the license renewal process. We will send you copies of the completed draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements for both the Surry and North Anna Power Stations as soon as they become available for review. Also, if you do not yet have a copy of the Berger Group cultural resource assessment reports for the two stations and wish to obtain copies for your files, we would be happy to provide you with copies.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By: CIGrimes

Christopher I. Grimes, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-280, 50-281, 50-338, and 50-339

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: see next page

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*See previous concurrence

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