

SURRY POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL COMMENTS
TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
MAY 29, 2002

GOOD AFTERNOON,

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU TODAY IN SUPPORT OF THE SURRY POWER STATION'S LICENSE RENEWAL. MY NAME IS LAVERNE DANIELS AND I AM SUPERINTENDENT OF SURRY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

DURING MY FOUR-YEAR TENURE HERE, WHEN THE TOPIC OF LICENSE RENEWAL HAS COME UP I'VE OFTEN ASKED CITIZENS, "WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE IF THE POWER PLANT WERE NOT HERE?" THEY ALWAYS SHAKE THEIR HEADS AND SAY, "YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW AND WE DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT. WE DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE BEFORE THE POWER PLANT WAS BUILT."

TO PREPARE MY COMMENTS FOR YOU TODAY I ASKED MY OFFICE STAFF TO RESPOND TO THE TOPIC "WHAT THE DOMINION POWER PLANT IN SURRY MEANS TO ME." THREE MAJOR THEMES EMERGED FROM THEIR

COMMENTS: COUNTY REVENUE, HOUSEHOLD INCOME, AND CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP.

THE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY IN PROPERTY TAXES PAID BY DOMINION PROVIDE A GREAT SOURCE OF ASSURANCE THAT THE COUNTY WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

OUR SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN REVITALIZED BECAUSE OF OUR NUMBER ONE SOURCE OF TAX REVENUE -- THE POWER PLANT. WE NOW HAVE MODERN, UP-TO-DATE SCHOOLS OF WHICH EVERYONE CAN BE PROUD. BECAUSE OF THE POWER PLANT OUR CHILDREN HAVE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THEY DESERVE.

THE POWER STATION PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THEREBY GIVING HOUSEHOLD INCOME TO MANY RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY WHO, IN TURN, CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

THE POWER STATION'S LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THEIR GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP. MANY COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

AND CHARITIES HAVE RECEIVED MONETARY SUPPORT FROM THE POWER STATION AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FROM PLANT EMPLOYEES. MY STAFF AND I RECENTLY WORKED WITH DOMINION'S CORPORATE SERVICES STAFF AND RECEIVED A GENEROUS CHECK TO PURCHASE A MATH/SCIENCE COMPUTER LAB AND TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL COMPUTERS FOR THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL. WE ARE NOW WORKING TOWARD GETTING SOME OF OUR STUDENTS INTO THE NUCLEAR OPERATORS TRAINING PROGRAM. THE POWER STATION IS AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PARTNER.

WE KNOW THAT THE POWER PLANT HAS AN EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORD. THEREFORE, THE CITIZENS AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF **HAVING** THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT; THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF **NOT HAVING** THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.

M. LaVerne Daniels, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Surry County Public Schools