

November 21, 2003

Dr. Ethel Eaton, Manager
Office of Review and Compliance
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

SUBJECT: EARLY SITE PERMIT REVIEW FOR THE NORTH ANNA POWER STATION
SITE

Dear Dr. Eaton:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application for an early site permit (ESP) for the potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants. The NRC staff is currently seeking information from consulting parties, and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area, and to identify issues relating to the proposed undertaking's potential effects on historic properties.

If built, the new unit(s) would be located at the existing North Anna Power Station site near Mineral in Louisa County, Virginia, on the southern shore of Lake Anna. The application for an ESP was submitted by Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Dominion), on September 25, 2003, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 52 (10 CFR Part 52). See Enclosure 1, the application on CD-ROM. As part of its review of the application, the NRC staff will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC rules that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the EIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. A draft EIS is scheduled for publication in October 2004, and will be provided to you for review and comment.

If approved, the ESP will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear plants. The ESP would not authorize the applicant to begin construction of the unit(s). However, in its review the NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives, including alternative sites.

Dominion has also included a site redress plan in its application in accordance with 10 CFR 52.17(c) and 52.25. If a site redress plan is included in an ESP approved by the NRC, the applicant may carry out certain site preparation and limited construction activities. See Part 4 of the application for the site redress plan. Dominion would still be required to obtain the appropriate local, State, and other Federal permits required for these activities prior to starting work.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for this ESP review is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by land-disturbing activities

associated with the construction and operation of the new unit(s). However, in some instances these land-disturbing activities may potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites located beyond the immediate environs of the proposed site.

In its application, Dominion has stated that, prior to any activities that would disturb existing ground conditions, it would assess the need, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, to undertake subsurface investigations for the identification of potentially significant historic or cultural resources in the area(s) to be disturbed. In addition, Dominion has stated that it would implement the necessary administrative steps to make proper notifications in the event of an unanticipated discovery (including human remains). Enclosed for your information is a cultural resources survey of the North Anna site, prepared for the owner of the site in 2001 (Enclosures 2 and 3). The NRC staff has previously discussed this report with you during its review of the license renewal application for the existing North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2.

We invite you and your staff to participate in the review of the North Anna ESP application. We will also be contacting any Native American Tribes that may have a potential interest in the proposed undertaking, affording them the opportunity to participate in this process and identify issues of concern to them. These tribes are identified by records research with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, State and local governments, tribal organizations, and through other historical documentation.

On December 8, 2003, the NRC will conduct a public environmental scoping meeting at the Louisa County Middle School, 1009 Davis Highway, Mineral, Virginia. You and your staff are invited to attend. Your office will receive a copy of the draft EIS along with a request for comments. This draft EIS will include identification of historic sites, assessment of impacts, and our preliminary determination. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is October 2004.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Environmental Project Manager for the North Anna ESP project, Mr. Andrew Kugler at 301-415-2828 or ajk1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 52-008

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl.: See next page

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