

December 21, 2003

Mr. John Wolflin, Supervisor
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR THE NORTH ANNA
POWER STATION SITE

Dear Mr. Wolflin:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Dominion Nuclear North Anna LLC (Dominion) for an early site permit (ESP) for the potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants. As part of the review of this application the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). The impact analysis in the EIS includes the potential impacts of the construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant at the preferred or alternate sites, including the potential impacts to fish and wildlife and threatened and endangered species.

Dominion's preferred alternative for the location of the proposed new power plant is within the site boundaries of the existing North Anna Power Station, located on the south shore of Lake Anna Reservoir in Louisa County, Virginia. Lake Anna is an impoundment of the North Anna River, a tributary to the Pamunkey River north of Richmond. One of the alternate sites considered within the ESP application is the existing Surry Power Station located on the south bank of the James River in Surry County, Virginia. The electricity generated by a new plant at either site would most likely be transmitted to the regional grid via existing transmission lines. Each of these sites were evaluated in 2001 and 2002 regarding the renewal of operating licenses for existing nuclear power plants at these locations.

To support the EIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the NRC requests a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the North Anna and Surry Sites. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934.

The NRC intends to inspect the proposed and alternate sites, consult the National Wetland Database, and work with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to assess potential impacts to wetlands at this site. NRC staff also will interact with the appropriate State agencies concerning potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a new nuclear power plant at either the North Anna or Surry sites.

J. Wolflin

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If you have any questions concerning the ESP application or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Andrew Kugler, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-2828 or by e-mail at 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

cc: See next page

J. Wolflin

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If you have any questions concerning the ESP application or other aspects of this project, please contact Mr. Andrew Kugler, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-2828 or by e-mail at AJK1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
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Docket No.: 52-008

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