January 5, 2004

Mr. Don Klima, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: EARLY SITE PERMIT REVIEW FOR THE NORTH ANNA SITE

Dear Mr. Klima:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application for an early site permit (ESP) submitted by Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Dominion) on September 25, 2003. An ESP allows an applicant to set aside a site for potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants, and provides the opportunity to resolve site safety and environmental issues before construction begins. An ESP does not allow actual construction of a nuclear plant, which must be requested through another application. The ESP site proposed by Dominion is on property within the site boundary of the existing North Anna Power Station site near the town of Mineral in Louisa County, Virginia. The application was submitted by Dominion pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 52 (10 CFR Part 52).

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. Dominion would still be required to obtain the appropriate local, State, and other Federal permits required for these activities prior to starting work.

As part of its review of the application, the NRC staff will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (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 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 <u>AJK1@nrc.gov</u>.

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

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DISTRIBUTION: Early Site Permit Review Re: No. Anna Site, Dated: January 5, 2004

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