

December 20, 2004

Mr. David A. Christian
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Blvd
Glen Allen, VA 23060-6711

SUBJECT: DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE NORTH ANNA EARLY
SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Christian:

On September 25, 2003, Dominion Nuclear North Anna LLC (Dominion) tendered its application for an early site permit (ESP) in accordance with Subpart A of Part 52 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR). Dominion revised and supplemented its application on October 2, 2003, and July 15 and September 7, 2004. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) formally accepted the application as a docketed application for an ESP on October 23, 2003. The staff has reviewed the ESP application and has developed the enclosed draft safety evaluation report (DSER).

The DSER is being issued in accordance with the review schedule identified in the enclosure to the staff's letter to Dominion dated October 23, 2003. It provides information to stakeholders regarding the state of completion of the staff's review of safety aspects of Dominion's ESP application and the remaining information needed for issuance of the final SER (FSER). Because the DSER contains open items (subjects for which Dominion needs to provide additional information), the NRC staff has not made a decision regarding whether to recommend to the Commission that an ESP be issued for the North Anna ESP site.

Still, issuance of this DSER is an important milestone in the staff's rigorous review to determine whether Dominion's application meets the Commission's regulations. In the period preceding preparation of the FSER, both Dominion and the NRC staff will need to focus on resolution of the open items identified in the DSER. To that end, the schedule calls for Dominion to provide responses to all open items not later than March 3, 2005. Any delay beyond this date in submitting responses sufficient to resolve the open items will likely result in a slip in issuance of the FSER.

It is imperative that Dominion and the NRC staff exchange complete, timely, and accurate information if all open items are to be resolved expeditiously. Dominion's cooperation in setting up meetings, responding fully to the staff's needs for information, and docketing the needed information in a timely manner is an integral part of meeting the review schedule. Dominion should ensure that its meeting attendees have the authority to make commitments to resolve issues. Senior management meetings may be used to address difficult issues, if necessary.

You have requested, on behalf of Bechtel Power Corporation and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, that portions of the information submitted to support your application

D. Christian

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for an ESP be exempt from mandatory public disclosure in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390. The staff concludes that the enclosed DSER does not contain any information for which exemption has been sought or approved. However, the NRC will withhold the enclosed DSER from public disclosure for 21 calendar days from the date of this letter to allow Dominion the opportunity to verify, in consultation with Bechtel Power Corporation and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the staff's conclusions in this regard. If, after that time, you do not request that all or portions of the DSER be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, the enclosure will be made available for public inspection through the NRC's Public Document Room and the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Michael Scott, the NRC's project manager for review of your ESP application, at (301) 415-1421 (or mls3@nrc.gov) if you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Beckner, Program Director
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-008

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encls: See next page

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 New, Research and Test Reactors Program
 Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML043020619	Package
ML043070296	Cover letter
ML043290302	Chapter 1
ML043290364	Section 2.1
ML043290405	Section 2.2
ML043290423	Section 2.3
ML043290425	Section 2.4
ML043290431	Section 2.5
ML043290413	Section 3.5.1.6
ML043290295	Section 13.3
ML043200554	Section 13.6
ML043290275	Chapter 15
ML043280304	Section 17.1
ML043290317	Chapter 18
ML043290327	Chapter 19
ML043290341	Appendix A
ML043290351	Appendix B

E:\Filenet\ML043070296.wpd * See previous concurrence

OFFICE	PM:RNRP	SC:RNRP*	PD:RNRP*	OGC	D:DRIP
NAME	MScott	LDudes	WBeckner	RWeisman	DMatthews
DATE	12/14/04	12/01/04	12/09/04	12/16/04	12/16/04

Distribution of DSER For the North Anna ESP Application dated December 20, 2004:

Hard Copy w/encl.:

MScott	RBarrett	
RNRP R/F	BBoger	SBlack
WBeckner	LDudes	DMatthews
PPrescott	CMunson	RHarvey
GBagchi	YLi	JCushing
KCampe	JLee	BMusico
DBarss	ATardiff	RWeisman
BPoole		

Hard Copy w/o encl.:

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JDyer	RAnand	RDennig
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KManoly	GImbro	DThatcher
NMamish	JShea	MTschiltz
AKugler	FGillespie	KWinsberg
NGilles	RBorchardt	

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