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Greetings,

I write to express my deep concern about the expansion of the nuclear power facility at North Anna, operated for the moment by Dominion Resources (and formerly known as "Virginia Power").

1. My late father was an insurance agent. He told me, "If a company can't find affordable insurance, then the business isn't safe." Since North Anna and other plants can't seem to find a free market insurer, that means the free market is telling us all that nuclear power is too risky. Let's listen to the free market!
2. Waste by-products from nuclear fission of uranium and plutonium is incredibly toxic, radioactive and long-lived, lasting for tens of thousands of years at least. All of human history is only 8000 years or so. So far, humanity hasn't proven it can care for anything longer than a few centuries, and that amounts to a few pots and some dusty scraps of writing. How are we going to take care of this unbelievably dangerous stuff for so long? Even if Yucca Mountain or some other salt dome opens up soon, over the very understandable opposition of neighbors worried about their health and property values, these places will fill up in no time from the waste of established plants. How can you add to an already huge, dangerous problem like this when you haven't bothered to figure out a real solution? It's like packing your house full of drums containing oil and fertilizer, making popcorn in the fireplace, and wondering what might happen when the sparks start to fly. I don't want to be up in that house! And I sure don't want to be anywhere near an expanded North Anna nuclear power station!
3. Let's say you do find a safe place to bury the waste. Then you have to transport it out of North Anna and other plants by rail. After what happened on January 6th at Granitsville, SC, with the awful, deadly chlorine gas spill, I have no faith that there won't be a nuclear spill at some point. Unlike simple chemicals like chlorine, which kills only a relative few and causes evacuations of just a couple of towns and neighborhoods, radioactive nuclear waste would wreck whole regions and disrupt lives and the environment literally for eons. I can't even imagine a security protocol that could deal with this danger. There's only one way to handle it: DON'T DO IT! And certainly don't add to the risk by building more plants that create the waste!

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4. While I'm on the topic of disaster and disruption, I'd like to know what plan NRC has for evacuating my county of Louisa, plus nearby cities like Charlottesville, Richmond, and Washington DC (less than 100 miles downwind) if anything goes wrong with waste transport, or there is a reactor failure, or a terrorist attack occurs. If NRC or the Dept. of Homeland Security don't have these plans in place, there is no point in even talking about expanding a ripe target like North Anna.
5. I read that NRC plans to "prime the pump" of nuclear power expansion by providing various incentives, rebates and subsidies. If the nuclear power industry can't manage to make a go of it in the free market after 40+ years, and if North Anna's two existing reactors can't turn enough of a profit to make expansion there worthwhile, then this is simply corporate welfare. Slap those grasping hands back! Let the free market rule!

Thanks for your attention. If you think you can deal with my concerns, send me a response. Otherwise, stop North Anna and fission plants like it from expanding. Get on with the task of developing safe energy like fusion reactors, fuel cells, and best of all renewables like solar, wind, and hydro.

Sincerely,



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