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2/28/05

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February 18, 2005

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D 59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

12/10/04
69 FR 71854
(110)

Dear Sir:

Last night I attended and spoke at the NRC's Public Meeting to Collect Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the North Anna Site. I was not given enough time for the full statement that I wished to communicate, so I am giving that to you now, and I am also including a comment on the process itself and a comment on something said by another person at the meeting.

I assert that a Lake Anna site is not suitable for a nuclear reactor due to the catastrophic environmental damage that might ensue from a terrorist strike on the nuclear facility, including damage to places downwind of Lake Anna, such as Washington, D.C. The threat of such a strike on an energy plant is often stated by top government officials.

The war on terrorism is a top priority for this administration. President Bush devoted 40% of his recent State of the Union message to the war on terrorism.

You are a part of the government, so you also have a part in the war on terrorism.

The proliferation of nuclear reactors does not mesh with the goal of preventing a disastrous terrorist strike on the United States.

Warnings of the danger to our country from terrorism come from top government sources.

Last summer, Dr. Philip Zelikov, the Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission, was asked this by an interviewer shortly after the Commission's report was published:

"The 9/11 Commission Report blames a lack of imagination for failing to anticipate that terrorists could crash domestic planes into domestic targets. What imaginings now keep you awake at night, having gone through all of this?"

Dr. Zelikow replied,

"I think we're very worried now, as some people were then, about the use of unconventional weapons, especially nuclear or biological weapons, by a terrorist organization. There are also some different ways of conducting a conventional attack that might use aircraft that are less well guarded or some other parts of the transportation system; we said a little bit about that in the report."

E-RIDS = ADM-03

Add = J. Cushing (JXC9)
A. Williamson (ARW1)

STSP Review Complete

Template = ADM-013

(Interview in VIRGINIA: The University of Virginia Alumni News; Winter 2004 issue.)

Two days ago, on February 16, Porter Goss, the Director of the CIA, testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He said.

“Islamic extremists are exploiting the Iraqi conflict to recruit new anti-U.S. jihadists. These jihadists who survive will leave Iraq experienced and focused on acts of urban terrorism.”

Admiral James Loy, the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, also testified before that Committee this week.

He listed energy facilities as being among the areas of greatest concern. He said that real, measurable progress had been made for them.

The trouble is, the terrorists are also working on the problem, and I am sure that you will agree that they have been a lot more creative than the defenders.

Admiral Loy said,

“...we think we are most likely to be attacked with a vehicle-borne, improvised explosive device. However, it remains very clear that our primary adversaries continue to seek weapons of mass effects with which they intend to strike us.”

A strike on a nuclear facility that is upwind of Washington would certainly achieve a mass effect.

I have enclosed a map of the state of Virginia with red circles over Lake Anna and Washington. Washington is a mere 75 miles from Lake Anna, as the wind blows.

And the wind does blow in that direction quite often. As you can see on the map, Lake Anna is somewhere between southwest and south-southwest of Washington. Over and over again, on weather maps in motion, one sees the wind is blowing into Washington from that direction.

I looked on the Weather Channel website earlier this week, and I have attached printouts of what was shown. In summary:

Monday, Feb. 14, 6:25 pm:

The wind in Washington at that moment was from the SSW at 11mph. The forecast for the whole night that night was Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 11 am:

The wind in Washington at that moment was from the SSW at 5 mph. The forecast for the whole day that day was Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 11 pm:

The wind in Washington at that moment was from the SSW at 9 mph. The forecast for the whole night that night was Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Radioactivity released from Lake Anna by an accident or terrorist attack would likely blow right up to Washington. Try to imagine the chaos, both local and national, if Washington became hazardous to life or uninhabitable due to radioactivity.

And if that happened, what could you possibly say in your defense? You have been warned—by the President; by the 9/11 Commission report; by the CIA; by the department of Homeland Security.

One of the goals of the NRC is to protect the public. Other parts of the government are going all out to defend against terrorism, and you should also. Therefore:

- (1) You should not authorize new nuclear reactors near or upwind of major metropolitan areas, especially Washington, which is a prime symbolic target for terrorists.
- (2) You should not renew or extend operating permits for current reactors near or upwind of major metropolitan areas, such as the old ones at here at Lake Anna.
- (3) You should shut down the Indian Point reactors, which are a mere 35 miles from Times Square in New York City and which have one spent fuel pool that is mostly above ground.

In his State of the Union message, President Bush said,

“Our third responsibility to future generations is to leave them an America that is safe from danger, and protected by peace. We will pass along to our children all the freedoms we enjoy -- and chief among them is freedom from fear.”

Right now, I am afraid. Sometimes the wind blows my way from Lake Anna. If the people of Washington and New York knew what was sitting near them, they would be afraid, also. It is your duty to protect the public by removing these targets from us and by barring new ones.

A comment on the Early Site Permit process: Perhaps I misunderstood, but I thought you said last night that the NRC would discuss security issues with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, but that there was no place in the Security Review process, at least at any point in the research or formative stage, for public comment. If that is the case, then I object strenuously. Safety is probably the greatest concern for the public out of all of the issues arising in the permitting process. How can you think to shut us out of that discussion? That is wrong, wrong, wrong!

A comment on a statement made by someone else at the meeting: One of the nuclear engineers who spoke in favor of the permit said in a dismissive tone that concerns over the transporting of highly radioactive nuclear waste across the country were a political issue, not a scientific issue. The fact that something is a political issue does not make it less real or less important. A terrorist act is a political act. Its political nature does not diminish its terrible damage.

Sincerely,

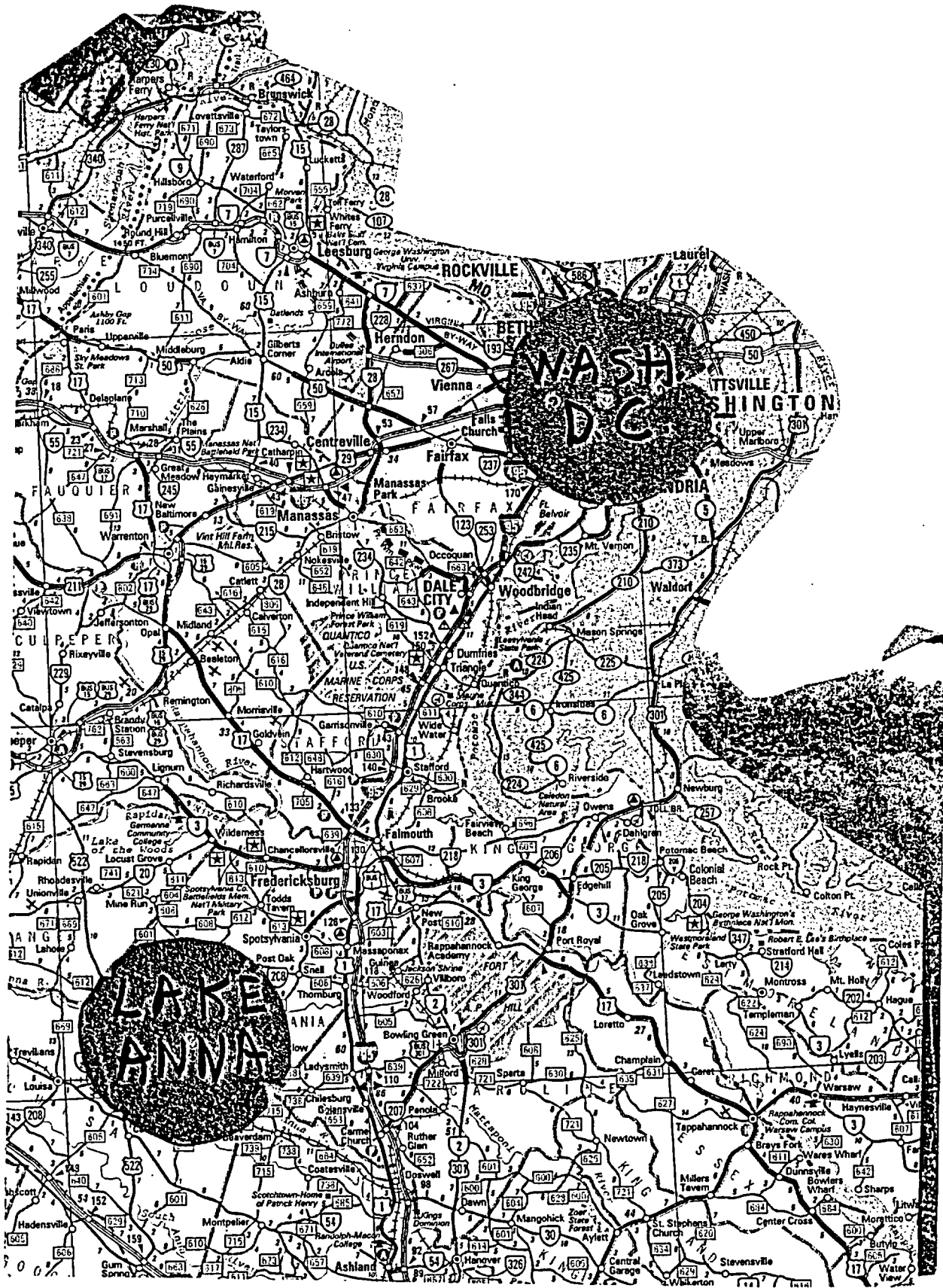
Virginia Rovnyak


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Enclosures:

Map of Virginia

Six pages of Weather Channel website printout



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
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On The Spot Weather
 



50°F
Feels Like
46°F

UV Index: 0 Low
Wind: From SSW at 11 mph
Humidity: 95%
Pressure: 29.95 in. ↓
Dew Point: 49°F
Visibility: 9.0 miles

↓ Scroll down to see Doppler radar

Updated Feb 14 06:25 p.m. ET



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Tonight




Low
42° F

Precip: 100%

Rain showers ending this evening with clearing overnight. Low 42F. Winds SW at 5 to 10 mph. Rainfall around a quarter of an inch.

Tomorrow




High
63° F

Precip: 10%

Sunshine along with some passing clouds. High 63F. Winds WSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow night



Low
46° F

Precip: 10%


Partly to mostly cloudy. Low 46F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

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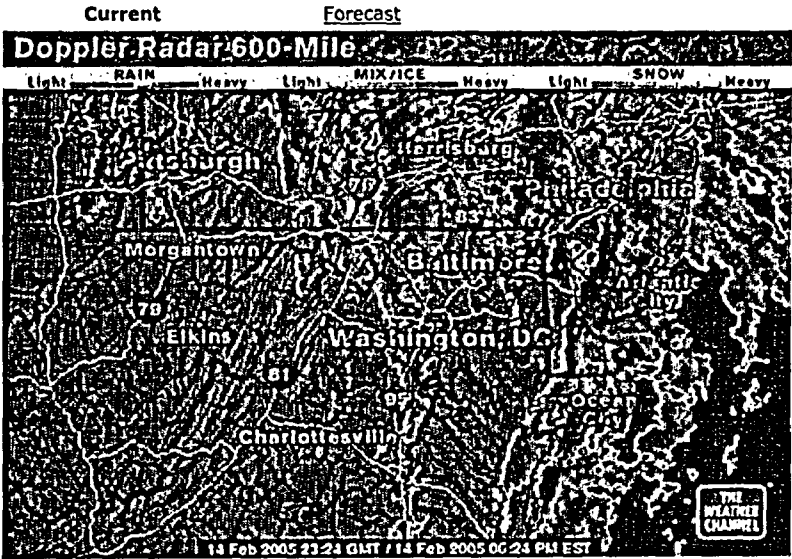
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Cloudy

49°F
Feels Like
47°F

Updated Feb 15 11:00 a.m. ET

On The Spot Weather

Choose Location 

UV Index: 1 Low
Wind: From SSW at 5 mph
Humidity: 81%
Pressure: 30.20 in. +
Dew Point: 43°F
Visibility: 7.0 miles

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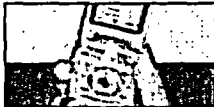
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Special Offers in Washington

Today




Partly Cloudy

High 58° F

Precip: 0%

Sunshine along with a few clouds. High 58F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight




Partly Cloudy

Low 47° F

Precip: 0%

Partly cloudy skies early will give way to cloudy skies late. Low 47F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow



PM Showers

High 59° F

Precip: 50%

Mostly cloudy with showers becoming likely in the afternoon. High 59F. S winds shifting to WNW at 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

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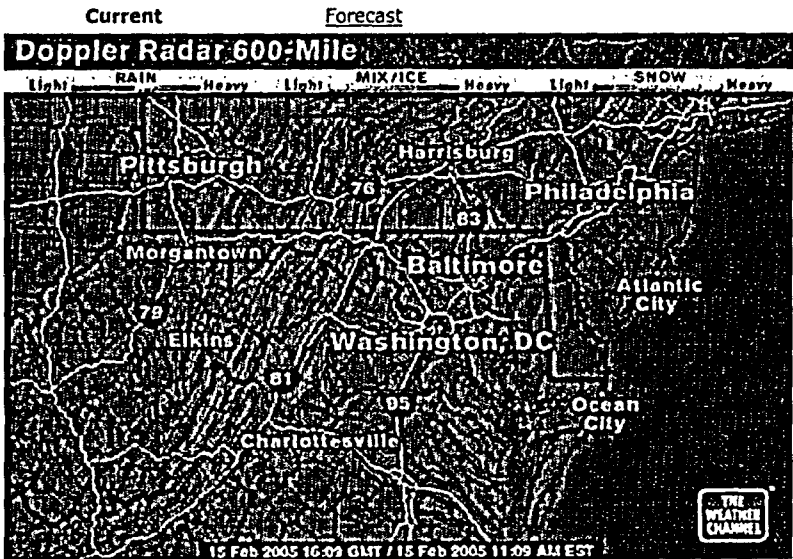
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Mostly Cloudy

49°F

Feels Like 45°F

On The Spot Weather

Choose Location

UV Index: 0 Low
Wind: From SSW at 9 mph
Humidity: 71%
Pressure: 30.00 in. ↑
Dew Point: 40°F
Visibility: 10.0 miles

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36-Hour Forecast

Hourly	Details	Video	Text	Averages
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Tonight

Mostly Cloudy

Low 47° F

Precip: 0%

Mainly cloudy. Low 47F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Tomorrow

PM Showers

High 59° F

Precip: 50%

Mostly cloudy with showers becoming likely in the afternoon. High 59F. SSW winds shifting to WNW at 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Tomorrow Night

Partly Cloudy

Low 32° F

Precip: 20%

A few clouds from time to time. Low 32F. Winds NW at 10 to 20 mph.

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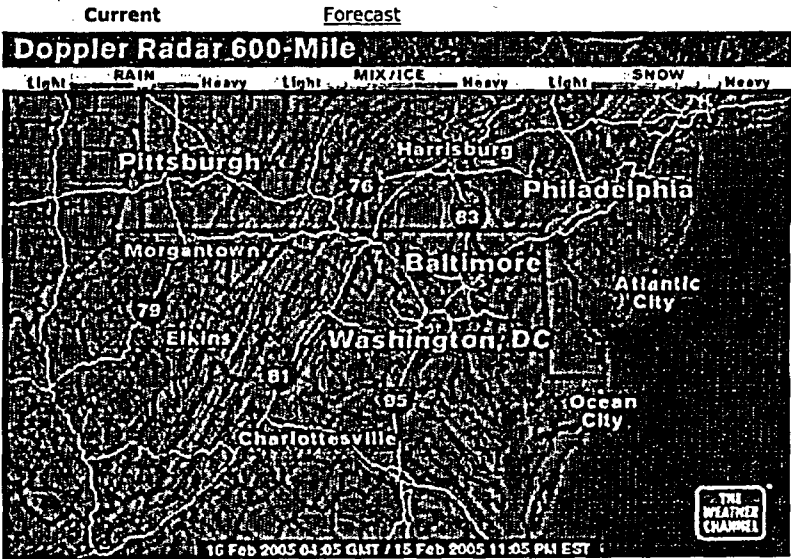
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