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Subject: Statement from Feb. 17 public meeting

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Attached is the complete statement from which I excerpted my remarks at the Feb. 17, 2005 public meeting on the North Anna ESP environmental scoping document. Please use this full statement for the record.

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**Remarks by
Scott Peterson
Vice President
Nuclear Energy Institute**

**Dominion/North Anna Early Site Permit
Environmental Impact Statement Meeting
February 17, 2005**

Good evening.

I am Scott Peterson, a Dominion customer and vice president at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

I would like to applaud Dominion for pursuing an early site permit at North Anna, and for its efforts in preserving options to make prudent future choices for providing affordable, reliable electricity to its customers.

By preserving the option to build new nuclear power plants in the United States, Dominion is ensuring that we maintain a diversity of electricity supply options.

Here is the reality. When 11-year old Asa [a previous speaker at the public meeting] is 30, we will need 50 percent more power. We will need all resources to produce safe, reliable, affordable generation.

Today, all renewables produce 2 percent of our electricity. We'll need more. Today, nuclear power produces 20 percent. We'll need more if we are to maintain our quality of life for Asa's generation. We'll need more generation from all sources.

This diversity helps us keep energy reliable and affordable ... and reduces our dependence on foreign supplies.

Dominion is not alone in this endeavor.

It is joined by several other energy companies testing new federal government licensing processes—all part of an effort to look at providing electricity for the future.

And these efforts are broadly supported by the public, policymakers and, in the last few years, as Mr. Sloan said, by leading environmentalists.

Simply put, it makes sense for Dominion to take this step of exploring its options for serving millions of consumers in Virginia who depend on them for affordable electricity, including my family.

Nuclear energy is the nation's second largest electricity source that powers our energy-

hungry, high-tech economy ... in an environmentally responsible manner. That helps secure our energy supply.

Nuclear energy helped back oil out of the electricity sector in the 1970s and 1980s. It can do the same thing in the transportation sector by cleanly producing hydrogen for vehicles powered by fuel cells.

And nuclear power is the only large-scale, emission-free source of electricity that we can readily expand to meet our growing energy demand.

Nuclear power plants also emit no greenhouse gases; chief among them is carbon dioxide. In 2004, U.S. nuclear plants prevented nearly 700 million metric tons of carbon dioxide—the same as eliminating the carbon dioxide emissions from 9 out of 10 passenger cars in the entire country.

These clean air benefits are why support for nuclear energy is widespread among leaders in government, business and academia and is growing among many environmentalists. Six out of 10 self-described environmentalists favor nuclear energy.

And many speakers tonight have discussed security at our plants. We're serious about security, because we want to protect our workers, our families and our neighbors. Nobody is more committed to the safety and security of our workers and neighbors than the industry. We are one of the few industry's whose security is regulated by the federal government, and we have met all federal requirements. Our plants are inspected daily by the NRC.

Nuclear plant security is based on three important and coordinated levels: structural security of the plant itself, including state of the art design and secure physical construction; automated security, including 24-hour monitoring and failsafe mechanisms; and security provided by highly trained, well-armed security officers there to protect the facilities.

Today, more than 100 nuclear power reactors are an important part of America's diverse energy mix. Along with solar and wind, nuclear is an essential provider of emission-free electricity.

The early site process preserves the option to build new nuclear power plants, helping ensure that we will have a diverse, secure, sustainable energy supply to power our future. We need reliable ... affordable ... clean sources of energy for Virginia and America.

An editorial last year in the Richmond Times-Dispatch put it this way: "Many environmentalists want to reduce consumption of fossil fuels. Regarding electricity generation, what better way to replace oil, coal and natural gas plants than with nuclear?"

And the Washington Post, in an August 2004 editorial on energy policy, said it is time to "look again at nuclear energy, a taboo issue yet potentially a huge source of homegrown, non-carbon producing energy."

Dominion is doing just that ... looking at its options for producing electricity for future generations in a way that is safe, sustainable and affordable for all consumers. That's good for my family and for all Virginians.

Let me close with one other important benefit that may surprise many of you...and one of the most important recycle programs in the world. Many U.S. nuclear plants use uranium for fuel that has been extracted from Russian warheads—10,000 warheads in all by the end of this year. That's 10,000 warheads that used to be aimed at U.S. cities now powering the U.S. economy...lighting our cities and rendering those weapons useless for war.