

June 3, 2005

Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: INTERIM LETTER: DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT ON
NORTH ANNA EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

Dear Dr. Wallis:

This responds to your letter dated March 11, 2005, on the Committee's review of the Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Dominion), application for an early site permit (ESP) for the North Anna site and the associated Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's draft safety evaluation report (DSER). During the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) meeting on March 3, 2005, the staff discussed the North Anna ESP DSER with the full committee. At the time of the ACRS meeting, several open items required additional information from Dominion in order to be resolved. As of May 2, 2005, all open items were resolved and the final safety evaluation report (FSER) for the North Anna ESP will be issued on June 16, 2005. The staff plans to meet with the ACRS full committee on July 6, 2005, to present the conclusions of the staff's review of the North Anna ESP, as documented in the FSER. Additional comments from the final ACRS Full Committee meeting will be addressed in an addendum to the FSER before it is formally issued as a final NRC technical report (i.e., a NUREG). The final ACRS report will be included as an additional appendix to the FSER.

I appreciate the Committee's comments on the quality of the DSER and the staff's significant effort in developing this first-of-a-kind safety evaluation for an ESP.

In the March 11, 2005, letter, the ACRS discussed the staff's findings on the major elements required in an ESP application, such as the nature of the proposed site, population around the site, the geology and seismicity of the site, meteorology, potential radiological source terms, and emergency plans. The staff's responses to the ACRS comments and recommendations are enclosed. The responses address the following four areas:

1. Geology and seismicity of the site
2. Meteorology
3. Potential radiological source terms
4. Emergency plans

With regard to the Committee's comment on working with the staff in developing lessons learned from the review of this and the next few applications for ESPs, we welcome the opportunity to work with the ACRS to identify issues that should be addressed during the planned update of the ESP review standard (RS-002), in preparation for future ESP applications.

G. Wallis

- 2 -

Thank you for your comments. My staff looks forward to continued interactions with the Committee during your review of the North Anna and future ESP applications.

Sincerely,

/W Kane for/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: Staff Response to ACRS Comments

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

G. Wallis

- 2 -

Thank you for your comments. My staff looks forward to continued interactions with the Committee during your review of the North Anna and future ESP applications.

Sincerely,

/W Kane for/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
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Enclosure: Staff Response to ACRS Comments

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

Distribution: See next page

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