

September 1, 2005

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

SUBJECT: DOMINION NUCLEAR NORTH ANNA, LLC, EARLY SITE PERMIT
APPLICATION AND THE ASSOCIATED NRC FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION
REPORT

Dear Chairman Wallis:

Thank you for your letter dated July 18, 2005, regarding the final safety evaluation report (FSER) of the Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC, (Dominion) application for the North Anna early site permit (ESP). The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will reproduce your report as Appendix E to the FSER for the North Anna ESP which will be issued as a final NRC technical report, a NUREG, on September 30, 2005. In your letter, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) agreed with the NRC staff's conclusions that the North Anna site is adequate, subject to the eight proposed permit conditions, for the proposed use, and the ACRS recognized that the NRC staff had resolved all of the ACRS concerns. On this basis, the NRC staff has updated the FSER to reflect the ACRS conclusions.

In your letter, you also stated that the first use of the ESP process revealed several areas where the process can be refined and streamlined and that the ACRS is looking forward to working with the NRC staff to improve the ESP process. The NRC staff welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the ACRS and develop lessons learned to improve and streamline the ESP process for future applications. While some issues may be resolved in the ongoing Part 52 proposed rulemaking (refer to Subpart A of rulemaking identification number (RIN) 3150-AG24 in the NRC's Rulemaking-RuleForum website), the staff will work with the ACRS to develop additional recommendations as needed. The NRC staff plans to interact with the ACRS starting in FY 2006 and identify issues in the ESP review standard that should be modified for the planned revisions to the Standard Review Plan (SRP).

The NRC staff appreciates the insights that the ACRS has provided concerning the sections on safety in the North Anna ESP. These insights are a valuable contribution to the NRC staff's review and development of the FSER.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

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cc: Chairman Diaz
 Commissioner Merrifield
 Commissioner Jaczko
 Commissioner Lyons
 SECY

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