April 08, 2008

Chief Stephen R. Adkins
Chickahominy Tribe
8200 Lott Cary Road
Providence Forge, VA 23140

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Chief Adkins:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant at its North Anna Power Station (North Anna or NAPS) site in Louisa County, Virginia. As part of the review of this COL application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Part 51 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA).

The proposed new reactor, North Anna Unit 3, would be located on an approximately 1000 acre site on the southern shore of Lake Anna, approximately 6 miles northeast of the town of Mineral, Virginia. Dominion currently operates two reactors, NAPS Units 1 and 2, on the site, and plans to construct Unit 3 adjacent to the existing reactors. Dominion submitted the application for COL by letter dated November 26, 2007, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The application was accepted for docketing on January 28, 2008, and is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html. The application is listed under ADAMS accession number ML073321238. The North Anna COL application is also available on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/north-anna.html.

Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209/301-415-4737 or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library in Mineral, Virginia; Hanover Branch Library in Hanover, Virginia; Orange County Library in Orange, Virginia; Salem Church Library in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and C. Melvin Snow Memorial Branch Library in Spotsylvania, Virginia have agreed to make the environmental report available for public inspection.

On November 27, 2007, the NRC issued Dominion an early site permit (ESP) for the North Anna ESP site, which is the site proposed for Unit 3. An ESP is a Commission approval of a site as suitable for construction and operation of one or more new nuclear units. During the ESP environmental review, the NRC consulted with various entities and received concurrence on the final EIS's evaluation of the impacts to cultural resources. The NRC's detailed review of the environmental impacts of constructing and operating a new nuclear unit is documented in NUREG-1811, "Environmental Impact Statement for an [ESP] at the North Anna ESP Site." (ESP FEIS Volumes 1 and 2 are available in the ADAMS under ADAMS accession numbers ML063480261 and ML063480263, respectively.)

Pursuant to NRC regulations in 10 CFR 51.50(c), a COL applicant referencing an ESP need not submit information or analyses regarding environmental issues that were resolved in the ESP EIS, except to the extent the COL applicant has identified new and significant information regarding such issues. Pursuant to 10 CFR 52.39, matters resolved in the ESP proceedings are considered to be resolved in any subsequent proceedings, absent identification of new and significant information.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC is using the process required by NEPA to comply with the obligations imposed by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. Accordingly, the NRC staff is identifying parties who may wish to consult with the staff on the proposed action and is inviting them to consult with the NRC staff on this matter. Consultation will include participation in the scoping process and identification of new and significant information regarding the ESP EIS discussion of historic properties on the NAPS site; the effects of the proposed action on those historic properties; and the alternatives and proposed measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed action on historic properties. The COL EIS will include analyses of any new and significant information relating to potential impacts to historic properties and will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the environmental effects of construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant on the site. The NRC staff will involve the public in this process in accordance with the NRC procedures in 10 CFR Part 51. To complete consultation under 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC will forward the draft EIS to consulting parties for review and comment, and will address the comments in the final EIS. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is December 2008.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28 and 36 CFR 800.2(c), the NRC wishes to ensure that Indian Tribes that might have an interest in any potential historic properties in the area of potential effect are afforded the opportunity to identify their concerns, provide advice on the identification and evaluation of historic properties, including those of traditional, religious and cultural importance, and, if necessary, participate in the resolution of any adverse effects to such properties. The area of potential effect for this COL review is the area at the North Anna site and its immediate environs which may be impacted by land-disturbing activities associated with the construction and operation of the new unit. Accordingly, the NRC staff is inviting you to consult with it regarding the proposed action and to otherwise provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the Dominion COL application.

On Wednesday, April 16, 2008, the NRC is providing the public with the opportunity to participate in an environmental scoping meeting to be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at Louisa County High School, 757 Davis Highway, Mineral, Virginia. The meeting will be preceded by an open house from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. Representatives of the Chickahominy Tribe are invited to attend.

Please submit any written comments the Chickahominy Tribe may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by May 16, 2008. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or by e-mail to NorthAnna.COLAEIS@nrc.gov. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson, Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-1878 or alicia.williamson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Raione, Branch Chief **/RA/**
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-017

cc: See next page

Please submit any written comments the Chickahominy Tribe may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by May 16, 2008. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or by e-mail to NorthAnna.COLAEIS@nrc.gov. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson, Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-1878 or alicia.williamson@nrc.gov..

Sincerely,

Richard P. Raione, Branch Chief **/RA/**
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