

July 25, 2008

Ms. Karen Mayne, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Virginia Field Office
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER
EVALUATION FOR THE NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNIT 3 COMBINED
LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Mayne:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Virginia Electric and Power Company, doing business as Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion), and old Dominion Electric Cooperative (collectively, applicants) 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 a supplement to the environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared in connection with the application for the early site permit (ESP) for North Anna ESP site; as required by Title 10, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended. The COL environmental impact statement (EIS) will supplement the NRC staff's determination regarding the environmental effects of construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant on the NAPS site analyzed during the early site permit process (ESP). The COL EIS will include an analysis of pertinent environmental issues including threatened or endangered species and impacts to fish and wildlife. To support the process for preparing the EIS on the COL application, and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), the NRC requests current information on Federally-listed, proposed and candidate species, and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the NAPS site. In addition, to fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA.

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 units, wholly within the existing boundaries of the NAPS site. The applicants 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>.

On November 27, 2007, the NRC issued an 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 the Chesapeake Bay Field Office and, by letter dated May 20, 2005, (Enclosure 1), received concurrence on a biological assessment evaluating the impacts of construction and operation of two new reactors at the NAPS site on potentially occurring federally-listed threatened or endangered species. The NRC's detailed review of the environmental impacts of constructing and operating proposed Unit 3 is documented in NUREG-1811, "Environmental Impact Statement for an [ESP] at the North Anna Site", (ESP FEIS Volumes 1 and 2 are available in ADAMS under the accession numbers ML063480261 and ML063480263, respectively).

As set forth in the COL application, the applicants plan to use a closed-cycle, combination dry and wet cooling tower system to remove waste heat during power operation for North Anna, Unit 3. Make up water for the cooling tower system will be withdrawn from the North Anna Reservoir through a new intake structure. Blow-down from the closed-cycle cooling system would be discharged to Waste Heat Treatment Facility via the existing canal.

In the ESP application, Dominion concluded the existing transmission lines would be sufficient to carry the output of the existing units and the new units. After additional evaluation, the applicants have altered the original conclusion and have now determined that an additional 500kV line would be needed along with system reinforcement components. The new line would be installed on new transmission towers in the pre-existing North Anna Substation and LadySmith Switching Substation corridor.

Please note that 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. Consequently, in this consultation, the NRC is particularly interested in Federally-listed species, critical habitat, and FWCA-related information that have changed since our last consultation. The NRC SEIS on the COL application will include, among other things, analyses of new and significant information relating to threatened or endangered species, if any, including the effects of the new transmission line identified above.

As part of your office's participation in the scoping and consultation process, please submit any written comments you may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by August 15, 2008. Comments should be submitted either by mail to Ms. Alicia Williamson, Environmental Project Manager, Division of Site and Environmental Reviews, Mail Stop T-6D32, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.20555-0001 or via e-mail to NorthAnna.COLAEIS@nrc.gov.

K. Mayne

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson, Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-1878 or via email at alicia.williamson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No.: 52-017

cc: See next page

Enclosure:
As stated

K. Mayne

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If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson, Environmental Project Manager at (301) 415-1878 or via email at alicia.williamson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Raione, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
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Enclosure:
As stated

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