

January 27, 2009

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE NORTH ANNA POWER
STATION, UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE

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, and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (collectively referred to as 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. 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, 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. Dominion submitted the application for a COL by letter dated November 26, 2007, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52.

As part of the review of the COL application, the NRC has prepared NUREG-1917, draft "Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined License (COL) for North Anna Unit 3" (SEIS) as required by Title 10, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51. The draft SEIS supplements the NRC staff's determination regarding the environmental effects of construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant on the NAPS site analyzed in NUREG-1811, "Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the North Anna ESP site," dated December 2006. 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 draft SEIS's analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including threatened or endangered species and impacts to fish and wildlife, did not change from the characterization in NUREG-1811 and remains small with no mitigation warranted.

In the COL environmental report, Dominion indicated an additional 500kV transmission line would be needed along with system reinforcement components. The new line would be installed on new transmission towers in the preexisting North Anna Substation and LadySmith Switching Substation corridor. The NRC evaluated this new information and concludes the impacts from construction and operation of the new unit would remain small because there are

K. Mayne

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no known Federally or State-listed species in or near the North Anna to LadySmith right-of-way, the new transmission line would be built entirely within the existing right-of-way, with no widening required, and no changes to the current maintenance practices are anticipated with the addition of the new line.

By letter dated July 25, 2008, the NRC requested information on Federally listed threatened or endangered species that may be in the vicinity of North Anna and its associated transmission lines from the US FWS-Virginia Field Office. No response was received. To ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), please provide any information and comments you consider appropriate under the provisions of the ESA or FWCA by March 20, 2009. If no response from the US FWS-Virginia Field Office is received by this date, the NRC will consider the consultation closed. Enclosed is a copy of the draft SEIS, NUREG-1917; along with a CD containing the environmental impact statement for the ESP, NUREG-1811 to aid your review.

A public meeting on the draft SEIS will be held in the Auditorium at the Louisa County High School, 757 Davis Highway, Mineral, Virginia on Tuesday, February 3, 2009. The meeting will convene at 6:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meeting will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the SEIS, and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of the meeting.

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,

/RA TDozier for/

William Burton, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-017

Enclosures: As stated

cc: See next page

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