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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Serial No. NA3-09-008
Docket No. 52-017
COL/LTB

DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER
NORTH ANNA UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
COMMENTS ON NUREG-1917, DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

This letter provides Dominion's comments on the NRC staff's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), NUREG-1917, for the North Anna Unit 3 Combined License (COL). Comments are provided in the enclosed table.

A number of comments involve inconsistencies between the DSEIS and information provided by Dominion in the North Anna Unit 3 COL application Environmental Report, the Early Site Permit (ESP) application, the ESP Environmental Impact Statement, and in responses to requests for additional information. The enclosed table presents excerpts from those documents, when appropriate. In addition, comments are provided to inform the NRC staff of changes submitted in Revision 1 of the North Anna Unit 3 COL application (December 2008), which may need to be reflected in the Final SEIS.

Overall, Dominion found NUREG-1917 to be thorough and complete, and commends the NRC staff for its effort.

Please contact Tony Banks at (804) 273-2170 (tony.banks@dom.com) if you have questions.

Very truly yours,

Eugene S. Grecheck

DOB9
NRC

Enclosure:

North Anna COL DSEIS (NUREG-1917) Comment Table

Commitments made by this letter: None.

cc with Enclosure:

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
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**North Anna Unit 3 COL
DSEIS (NUREG-1917) Comment Table**

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
DSEIS Section No.	DSEIS Section Title	Statement from DSEIS	ER Section No.	ER Section Title	Statement from ER	Comment
1	None (page xvii)	Executive Summary				
		The purpose of Dominion's requested action, issuance of the COL that encompasses both a construction permit and an operating license, is to obtain from the NRC a license to construct and operate a nuclear power plant.	Section 1.1	The Proposed Action	The purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide additional base load power for residential and industrial customers in the region served by Dominion and ODEC. Additional purposes of proposed Unit 3 are to maintain fuel diversity in this region, reduce dependence on imported power, leverage Dominion's and ODEC's existing nuclear facilities, and to promote the regional economy, while not contributing to CO ₂ emissions.	Dominion suggests that the following text, paraphrased from Section 1.1 of its environmental report (ER) be substituted: The Dominion purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide additional base load power for customers in the region served by Dominion and ODEC, maintain fuel diversity in this region, reduce dependence on imported power, leverage Dominion's and ODEC's existing nuclear facilities, and to promote the regional economy, while not contributing to carbon dioxide emissions.
2	1.3	The Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action				
		The purpose and need for the proposed action (i.e., issuance of a COL) is to provide for additional base-load electrical generating capacity.	Section 1.1	The Proposed Action	The purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide additional base load power for residential and industrial customers in the region served by Dominion and ODEC. Additional purposes of proposed Unit 3 are to maintain fuel diversity in this region, reduce dependence on imported power, leverage Dominion's and ODEC's existing nuclear facilities, and to promote the regional economy, while not contributing to CO ₂ emissions.	Dominion suggests that the following text, paraphrased from Section 1.1 of its environmental report (ER) be substituted: The Dominion purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide additional base load power for customers in the region served by Dominion and ODEC, maintain fuel diversity in this region, reduce dependence on imported power, leverage Dominion's and ODEC's existing nuclear facilities, and to promote the regional economy, while not contributing to carbon dioxide emissions.
3	1.5; Appendix L	Compliance and Consultations; Authorizations and Consultations				
		Dominion (2007) provided a list of environmental approvals and consultations associated with the NAPS proposed Unit 3. Potential authorizations and consultations relevant to the proposed COL are included in Appendix L.	Table 1.2-1	Federal, State, and Local Authorizations	None	The DSEIS Appendix L list of authorizations and consultations is identical to the ESP EIS Appendix L. If NRC has determined that revision of the list is unnecessary, Dominion suggests the DSEIS Appendix L could be deleted and the section 1.5 language could be revised to read as follows: Appendix L of the ESP EIS lists authorization and consultation requirements that Dominion listed in connection with the Unit 3 construction and operation. NRC has identified no need to revise this list for the COL. Should NRC revise the DSEIS Appendix L list to include only those additional authorizations and consultations that Dominion identified in its COLA-ER, section 1.5 language could be revised as follows: Appendix L of the ESP EIS lists authorization and consultation requirements that Dominion listed in connection with the Unit 3 construction and operation. Appendix L of the SEIS lists additions to the ESP listing.
4	2.1	Site Location				
		The nearest population center that has more than 25,000 residents is Fredericksburg, Virginia.	ESP-ER ¹ Section 2.5.1.2	Population Center	The nearest population center with more than 25,000 residents is the City of Charlottesville. The closest point of Fredericksburg is 22 miles to the northeast with a projected 2065 population of about 20,950.	The correct nearest population center with more than 25,000 residents is Charlottesville (Fredericksburg's population is less than 25,000). The US Census Bureau website lists the population of the city of Fredericksburg, VA as 22,410 for 2007 (access date 1/12/09).

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5	2.1	Site Location	COLA-ER ² Section 2.1	Site Location	Figure 1.1-1 Site Utilization Plan	"ESP site boundaries" should be shown in the FSEIS and are not reflected properly in the current drawing. In addition, the intake channel in the DSEIS drawing indicates a full removal of the outer berm which contradicts correct statements made in DSEIS Section 9.3.1. Dominion suggests that Figure 1.1-1 from the ER be substituted.
6	2.3	Meteorology and Air Quality	COLA-ER ² Section 2.7.6	Long-Term (Routine) Diffusion Estimates	Table 2.7-1 lists the closest receptor as the residence in the NW direction at 3930 feet (distance from the facility boundary). Note 1: Distances are from the plant facility boundary. See FSAR Figure 2.0-205.	The COLA-ER describes the closest receptor as 1.20 km (3930 feet) from the plant facility boundary (Unit 3).
7	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of Lake Anna	N/A	N/A	N/A	The VDGIF reference presented a fishing preference with largemouth bass ahead of striped bass.
8	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of the North Anna River	N/A	N/A	N/A	Editorial: Change "2008" to "2002."
9	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of the North Anna River	N/A	N/A	N/A	The America eel (<i>Anquilla rostrata</i>), should also be included. Reference - Accession No. ML081960653, page 28, "Environmental Study of Lake Anna and the Lower North Anna River – Annual Report for 2007". "The numerically dominant species collected in 2007 were, in descending order, American eel, redbreast sunfish, rosefin shiner, margined madtom and satinfin shiner, fallfish <i>Semotilus corporalis</i> , and tessellated darter <i>Etheostoma olmstedii</i> (Table 4.2-3)."
10	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of the North Anna River	N/A	N/A	N/A	Missing the qualifier "among". Redbreast sunfish (<i>Lepomis auritus</i>) have consistently been among the most abundant species in the North Anna River since 1981. Reference - Accession No. ML081960653, page 28, "Environmental Study of Lake Anna and the Lower North Anna River – Annual Report for 2007".

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11	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of the North Anna River		N/A	N/A	N/A	Should say four stations, not six. Reference - Accession No. ML081960653, page 35, "Environmental Study of Lake Anna and the Lower North Anna River – Annual Report for 2007". "The locations of the following four (4) electrofishing stations are shown in Figure 4.1-1: NAR-1 (Route 601 Louisa Bridge), NAR-2 (Route 658 Bridge), NAR-4 (Route 601 Hanover Bridge) and NAR-6 (U.S. Route 1 Bridge)."
12	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of the North Anna River	ESP-ER ¹ Section 2.4.2.3.3	Important Species in North Anna River	Recent VDGIF surveys have indicated that largemouth bass and smallmouth bass populations are healthy, despite the river's limited supply of forage.	Editorial: Revise "Dominion" to "VDGIF."	
13	2.7.2.1	Aquatic communities of the North Anna River		N/A	N/A	N/A	Dominion suggests the following: Add " <u>The IFIM study focused on how changes in flow resulted in changes in aquatic habitat in the North Anna and Pamunkey Rivers.</u> " Modify " <u>The IFIM study...to reach conclusions.</u> " Insert " <u>Though the study did not address explicitly the well-documented effect of diluting acid mine drainage in the North Anna River,...</u> " Continue with " <u>...the staff believes...in the North Anna and Pamunkey Rivers.</u> "
14	2.7.2.2	Threatened and Endangered Aquatic Species		N/A	N/A	N/A	Dominion suggests deleting the word "Reservoir" from the title of Table 2-4 to be consistent with other references to Lake Anna in the DSEIS.
15	2.7.2.3	Aquatic Ecology Monitoring		N/A	N/A	N/A	Dominion suggests that the reference to "mussels" be deleted. Mussels were not included as part of the approved river study. Reference - Accession No. ML081960659, "A Monitoring Plan for Lake Anna, the Waste Heat Treatment Facility and the North Anna River", February 2008 - " <i>Biological monitoring shall include fish population surveys.</i> "
16	2.9.3	Native American Consultation		N/A	N/A	N/A	The Tuscarora Nation is listed twice in Section 2.9.3. The Tuscarora Nation is listed as consulted in association with the COL and is listed under "additional six groups added to this list." Appendix B (Organizations Contacted) lists the Tuscarora Nation and the Tuscarora Indian Tribe; however the Tuscarora Indian Tribe is not listed in Section 2.9.3. Dominion suggests the NRC clarify its listing between both the Nation and Tribe.

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17	2.10, 4.7, 5.7	Environmental Justice	COLA-ER ² Section 2.5	Environmental Justice	The county-level minority and low-income data were not in the COLA-ER. The COLA-ER states that no new and significant information has been identified.	<p>NRC added a different data parameter in the DSEIS for the COL (minority and low-income populations in counties). The FEIS and ER for the ESP presented data on minority and low-income populations in Census Bureau Census Year 2000 block groups in accordance with NRC guidance (NUREG-1555 and LIC-203). The county-based data cannot be accurately called new data because it has no relevance to minority and low-income populations as defined in the ESP SEIS; the county-level amalgamation would mask any change at a block-group level. The two data sets, the county-based and census block-based, are not comparable because multiple block groups make up counties and not all block groups contain minority or low-income populations.</p> <p>Dominion suggests NRC consider indicating that the ESP outreach revealed no discrepancy between minority and low-income information at that time, 2006, and that information gathered since that time does not indicate a substantial change.</p>
18	3.2.2	Cooling System	ESP-ER ¹ Section 3.4	Cooling System	COLA-ER 3.4 references ESP-ER 3.4 which states (ESP-ER 3.4.1.1): However, if reservoir level falls below 250 ft. msl and if the level is not restored within a reasonable period of time, the MWC mode would be used. The period of time before switching to the MWC mode was assumed to be 7 days for analysis of water level and downstream flows. The actual time frame would be established with the appropriate State agencies at the time of permitting.	<p>The DSEIS implies that MWC mode will be initiated when the lake level drops below 250 ft. msl for a period of seven or more days. The period of seven days was utilized for analysis, but no commitment to use this period as the basis for switching from EC to MWC mode has been made in the COLA-ER. The operating parameters for switching from EC to MWC mode will be established in coordination with State agencies at the time of permitting.</p>
19	3.2.2.2	Component Descriptions (Heat Dissipation Systems)	COLA-ER ² Section 3.4	Cooling System	COLA-ER 3.4 references ESP-ER 3.4 which states (ESP-ER 3.4.1.1): Footnote 1: In the MWC mode, the dry towers would have the capacity to remove one-third of the design condenser heat duty at a design dry bulb temperature (DBT) of 95°F (the 0.4 percent exceedance DBT for the site). As the DBT decreases, the percentage of heat which can be removed by the dry towers would increase proportionately until, at some lower DBT, the dry towers would have the capability of removing the entire condenser heat duty.	<p>The DSEIS statement as written misstates the operation and capability of the dry towers. The first sentence suggests that the dry tower will always be in operation. The third sentence as stated is not entirely accurate because at design ambient conditions the dry towers have the capacity to remove one-third of the heat load. A "majority" of dry cooling wouldn't be reached until the DBT reaches a certain level.</p> <p>Dominion suggests that the statement be reworded to state, "Dry tower operation depends on the availability of water from Lake Anna. If lake level is at or above 250 ft. msl, Unit 3 would be cooled entirely using the wet towers. During a dry weather period when lake level is below 250 ft. msl for a specified time, a minimum of one third of the Unit 3 waste heat would be dissipated by the dry towers, increasing with decreasing DBT."</p>

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20	3.2.2.2	Component Descriptions	ESP-ER ¹ Section 3.4.2.1 Response to RAI ER 3.4-1 [Serial No. NA3-08-079R Docket No. 52-017]	Intake System	Response to RAI ER 3.4-1: For the new Unit 3 intake, five box culverts of dimensions 10 ft x 12 ft, or equivalent , will be installed in the cofferdam to allow water from Lake Anna to flow through toward the Unit 3 intake via the approach channel. Minor adjustments of the intake dimensions are expected to be necessary during detailed design stage to accommodate the size of equipment (pumps and screens) specified by the suppliers.	The DSEIS implies that the intake design has been finalized, but Dominion's response to RAI ER3.4-1 was intended to provide NRC staff a conceptual layout of the Unit 3 intake. The final dimensions of the intake as well as the box culverts are subject to change to accommodate actual equipment size as indicated in the response to RAI ER 3.4-1. An equivalent flow area would be maintained.	
21	4.3.1	Hydrological Alterations					Dominion (2008a) has specified the method to allow water access from Lake Anna to the intake channel by installing five 3 x 3.7 m (10 x 12 ft) box culverts through the existing cofferdam.
22	4.4.2	Aquatic Ecosystem Impacts					To supply water to the proposed Unit 3, Dominion now indicates five box culverts, each with a width of 3.7 m (12 ft) and a height of 3.1 m (10 ft), will be installed in the existing cofferdam to allow water from Lake Anna to flow toward Unit 3 through the existing approach channel in Lake Anna (Dominion 2008a).
23	5.4.2.1	Intake and Discharge Systems					As described in Section 3.4, the intake design proposed by Dominion since preparation of the ESP EIS includes the installation of five box culverts in the existing cofferdam, each with a width of 3.7 m (12 ft) and a height of 3.1 m (10 ft).
24	4.5.1.3	Roads	COLA-ER ² Section 4.4	Socioeconomic Impacts	No new and significant information on this topic was included in Section 4.4 based on the COLA-ER new and significant evaluation, which cites a construction workforce of 2500-3500.	DSEIS Sections 4.5.1.3 and 5.5.4.1 cite an estimated construction workforce of 2500-3000. This is inconsistent with the COLA-ER new and significant evaluation as well as other sections of the DSEIS (Section 4.5 and 4.5.3), which cite an estimated construction workforce of 2500-3500. Dominion suggests the construction workforce be characterized as 2500-3500.	
25	5.5.4.1	Transportation					
26	4.5.4.5	Education	N/A	N/A	N/A	Editorial. Change "construction" to "construct".	

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27	4.8.2	Noise Impacts	During the April 2008 site audit, NRC staff was shown the results of a modeling study showing that noise levels at the Exclusion Area Boundary (EAB) would be less than 65 dBz.Therefore, at the EAB (870 m [2854.9 ft], per the plant parameter envelope considered in the ESP ER, the noise level at the EAB would be reduced by approximately six doublings resulting in a noise reduction of 36 dBA, or a noise level of 94-36 = 58 dBA, which is comparable with or slightly less than the 65 dBA limit required for other construction activities at the EAB.	ESP-ER ¹ Table 3.1-9	Bounding Site-Specific Plant Parameters Envelope	Noise <65 dbA at EAB Maximum expected sound level produced by operation of the cooling towers. Refer to Sections 3.1.5, 5.3.3.2.3, 5.3.4.2, & 5.8.1.2	Editorial: Change dBz to dBA. Note the 65 dBA limit applies to plant operation, not construction activities.
28	4.10	Measures and Controls to Limit Adverse Impacts During Construction	The discovery of potential historic or cultural resources will result in a stop work and appropriate procedures will be followed to notify the Virginia Department of Natural Resources.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Dominion suggests changing the word "Natural" to "Historic" to revise the reference to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
29	5.4.1.4	Shoreline and Riparian Habitat	Dominion is monitoring the impacts of lake level changes on shoreline and wetland vegetation as part of its Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) monitoring program.	N/A	N/A	N/A	As part of the IFIM study, Dominion is evaluating the potential impacts to shoreline and wetland vegetation, not monitoring as part of a program. Dominion suggests the following wording, "Dominion is evaluating the potential impacts of lake level changes on shoreline and wetland vegetation as part of its Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) study, and regulatory permitting activities."

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30	5.4.2.4	Downstream Impacts	ESP-ER ¹ Section 5.2.2.2	Analysis and Evaluations of Impacts on Water Use	For the existing units the ... duration for which the minimum release is 20 cfs would be 5.2 percent of the time. Comparable durations with the addition of Unit 3 are....7.3 percent of the time for a flow of 20 cfs.	<p>Related to comments provided by Dominion for the ESP DEIS on ER Section 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.4.1.4 and Appendix K as provided in Dominion Letter dated Sept. 12, 2006 (Accession No. ML062990422) and as summarized below:</p> <p>The FEIS for the ESP used an acceptable, but less precise method of confirming the evaluation performed by Dominion in order to assess the impact of Unit 3. The analysis used the long term average evaporation rate that Dominion stated in the ESP Application, which included a large portion of time when the lake was at or above 250 ft. msl and there was enough water to support the evaporative cooling process. When applied to the time periods when the lake is below 250 ft. msl, this method over estimates the evaporative loss caused by wet cooling and does not adequately credit the use of dry (i.e., no evaporation) cooling. The FEIS for the ESP concluded that the water use impact of Unit 3 was SMALL during normal periods and MODERATE during drought periods using the conservatively high value for evaporation, so further analysis using a more precise method was not required. Dominion's analysis used a more precise evaluation including daily evaporation estimates as a function of ambient environmental conditions and cooling system modes of operation (EC or MWC) depending on the projected lake level.</p> <p>The FEIS for the ESP reflects the NRC confirmatory analysis, and while the results do not exactly match those stated in the ESP-ER, the conclusion of SMALL IMPACT is unaffected.</p>
31	5.4.2.4	Downstream Impacts	N/A	N/A	N/A	NRC references 250.3 ft. msl correctly as stated in the original study plan. The actual study and draft final report, however, are aimed at a target lake elevation of 250.25 ft. msl.
32	8.4.3.3	Need for Reserve Margin	N/A	N/A	N/A	Editorial. The statement should read "This is a conservative assumption because it does <u>not</u> account for the probability that they might not all be built."

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33	9.2	Energy Alternatives	Section 1.1	The Proposed Action	The purpose and need for the proposed action is to provide additional base load power for residential and industrial customers in the region served by Dominion and ODEC. Additional purposes of proposed Unit 3 are to maintain fuel diversity in this region, reduce dependence on imported power, leverage Dominion's and ODEC's existing nuclear facilities, and to promote the regional economy, while not contributing to CO ₂ emissions.	Dominion suggests that NRC revise the text consistent with Dominion comments on the Executive Summary and other sections of Chapter 1.
34	9.2.1	Alternatives Not Requiring New Generating Capacity	NA	NA	NA	Text preceding this statement clearly indicates that new transmission lines would be required. Dominion suggests that the text should state: "If the purchased-power alternative were to be implemented, a major environmental unknown would be whether new transmission line rights-of-way would be required. ..."
35	9.2.2	Alternatives Requiring New Generating Capacity	NA	NA	NA	The statement in Section 9.2.2 of the DSEIS indicates that the analysis should be limited to discrete power generation sources. However, NRC evaluated a combination of alternatives in Section 9.2.4, and Dominion evaluated combinations of alternatives in Section 9.2.2.4 of the ER. Dominion suggests that the limitation to discrete power generation sources be eliminated from the text in Section 9.2.2.
36	9.2.2	Alternatives Requiring New Generating Capacity	NA	NA	NA	NRC indicates that generation options in Virginia are an indicator of feasible technology choices then summarizes national projections from the EIA Annual Energy Outlook regarding new capacity additions. No description of the power generation mix within Virginia is provided. Dominion suggests that the statement regarding the current mix of base-load power generation options in Virginia be deleted from the text.

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37	9.2.2.1	Coal-fired Generation	9.2.3.1, Tables 9.2-4 & 9.2-4a	Coal-fired Generation	<p>Dominion provided an analysis of three different Coal-fired units: a 600 MW unit with a heat rate of 8800 Btu/kW-hrs, a 700 MW unit with a heat rate of 8900 Btu/kW-hrs, and an 800 MW unit with a heat rate of 9000 Btu/kW-hrs. Dominion's analysis provides a range of emissions for a generic 507 MW coal-fired plant.</p> <p>Table text is extensive and not provided here.</p>	<p>NRC provided a single estimate for SO₂, NO_x, CO and VOC emissions (based on the 600 MW unit) and provided a range for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and Hg emissions.</p> <p>Dominion suggests that all emissions estimates be presented as a range.</p>
38	10.6.1 and Table 10-3	Benefits	None	8.0.1.3, 8.0.1.4, Table 8.0-1, Table 8.0-2, Table 10.4-1	Various (emissions reduction, emissions avoidance, carbon dioxide emissions)	<p>Various</p> <p>In Chapters 8 and 10 of its COLA-ER, Dominion notes that one benefit of the proposed action is the avoidance of air pollutants that would be emitted if the need for power was met by constructing and operating alternative coal- or gas-fired plants. This benefit is increasingly significant with regard to emissions of carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas. The DSEIS acknowledges this in Chapter 9 but does not bring it forward to the benefit/cost discussion.</p> <p>Dominion suggests the NRC revise the DSEIS section 10.6.1 discussion of benefits by adding avoidance of emissions in general and greenhouse gas emissions in particular.</p>

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Clarification Statements Submitted in COLA-ER Revision 1

39	2.7.1.2	Biological Communities within the North Anna-to-Ladysmith Transmission Line Right-of-Way	Wildlife surveys have not been performed and wetlands have not been delineated by Dominion along the Ladysmith right-of-way.	COLA-ER ³ Rev. 1 Section 4.3.1.1	Terrestrial Ecosystems – Transmission Corridors	A wetlands delineation was conducted along the NAPS-to-Ladysmith corridor in August 2008.	A wetlands delineation had not been performed at the time of submittal of COLA-ER Rev. 0. A wetlands delineation along the NAPS-to-Ladysmith transmission corridor was performed in August 2008 and is described in the COLA-ER Rev. 1, Section 4.3.1.1, submitted in December 2008. A jurisdictional determination from the US Army Corps of Engineers was also received in September 2008.
40	3.3	Power Transmission System	Interconnection of the proposed Unit 3 will require several system reinforcements that were identified in the system load studies (Dominion 2007). The reinforcements include: ... addition of a 500kV breaker in one of the half bays to support the new transmission line.	COLA-ER ³ Rev. 1 Section 3.7.1	Switchyard Interfaces	The second bullet was revised in Rev. 1 of the COLA to read "adding a new 500 kV bay to support the new North Anna-to-Ladysmith transmission line".	The system reinforcements required were revised in the COLA-ER Rev. 1, submitted in December 2008. The second bullet should be revised to state: "addition of a new 500 kV bay to support the new transmission line."

Notes:

- 1 Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC, *North Anna Early Site Permit Application, Part 3, Environmental Report*, Revision 9, September 2006, Dominion Nuclear North Anna LLC, Glen Allen, Virginia, Accession No. ML062580096.
- 2 Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion), *North Anna 3 Combined License Application, Part 3, Environmental Report*, Revision 0, November 2007, Dominion Virginia Power, Glen Allen, Virginia, Accession No. ML083190858.
- 3 Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion), *North Anna 3 Combined License Application, Part 3, Environmental Report*, Revision 1, December 2008, Dominion Virginia Power, Glen Allen, Virginia, Accession No. ML090090113.