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

Serial No. NA3-12-026
Docket No. 52-017
COL/JDH

DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER
NORTH ANNA UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
SEISMIC CLOSURE PLAN--DEFERRAL

On May 29, 2012, Dominion submitted a comprehensive North Anna 3 (NA3) Seismic Closure Plan ("the plan") to the NRC (NRC Accession No. ML12151A302). To date, Dominion has met the schedule for submitting information in accordance with the plan. However, for the reasons discussed below, Dominion has decided to defer future submittals in accordance with the plan until the first quarter of 2013.

The circumstances surrounding Dominion's decision involve two areas: the status of MHI's US-APWR DCD Seismic Closure Plan (SCP) and Dominion's evaluation of methodologies used in determining NA3 site characteristics based on seismic source characterization and attenuation models. Each topic is discussed below.

Status of US-APWR DCD Seismic Closure Plan

On August 29, 2012, MHI submitted a revised US-APWR DCD SCP to the NRC (ML12248A005). On September 13, 2012, (ML12237A228) the NRC notified MHI of its concern regarding the quality, technical sufficiency and completeness of MHI's seismic and structural analyses and its impact on the US-APWR DCD SCP. NRC requested that MHI meet with the NRC to explain how MHI planned to manage its seismic and structural design for the US-APWR standard design and SCP going forward. MHI responded by letter dated October 4, 2012 and held a public meeting with the NRC on October 10, 2012. MHI then submitted another revision to the US-APWR DCD SCP on October 12, 2012.

The impact of MHI's actions to improve its seismic and structural analysis, as well as the impact on the NA3 plan from the latest revision to the US-APWR DCD SCP, have not yet been determined. Similarly, the impact of MHI's actions, if any, on NRC's currently published safety review schedule for the US-APWR DCD is unknown. Thus, additional time is required by Dominion to ensure that the information submitted by MHI

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in accordance with its latest revision to the US-APWR DCD SCP is acceptable to the NRC and that the information can serve as a suitable basis for Dominion's decisions regarding the content of and submittal schedule of the NA3 plan.

Status of Seismic Evaluation Methodologies

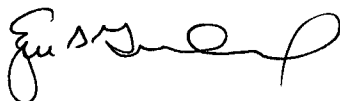
The nuclear industry, through NEI, has been working to develop a response to the NRC Fukushima Near-Term Task force recommendation (NTTF 2.1) to address potential risks that would exceed the current seismic licensing basis for the operating fleet. The operating fleet intends to use the new published Central and Eastern US (CEUS) seismic source characterization (SSC) model (NUREG-2115), combined with updated ground motion prediction equations (GMPE) referred to as the "updated EPRI 2004/2006 GMPE." The updated EPRI 2004/2006 GMPE is still under development by EPRI and is scheduled to be available in February 2013.

Earlier, Dominion had notified the NRC on February 13, 2012 (ML 12048A096), of its intent to use the new CEUS SSC model and that the model would be updated through 2011 to include the August 2011 central Virginia earthquake. At that time Dominion had also indicated its intent to use the EPRI 2004/2006 GMPE i.e., the predecessor to the updated EPRI 2004/2006 GMPE referenced above to develop a new hard rock probabilistic seismic hazard analysis (PSHA) and design response spectra. Dominion, as well as other COL applicants, is now considering the use of the updated EPRI 2004/2006 GMPE to develop the PSHA for the NA3 site. However, because of the scheduled availability of the updated GMPE, additional time is needed to assess the potential impacts of its use.

Because of the status of the US-APWR DCD SCP and the evolving industry methodologies for evaluating seismic hazards, Dominion has decided to defer further submittals of seismic-related information as specified in the May 29, 2012 NA3 SCP until Dominion has had the opportunity to evaluate available methodologies and determine the most appropriate technical approach. Based on the status of the two areas discussed above, Dominion plans to provide the NRC an updated SCP by the first quarter of 2013.

Please contact Joseph D. Hegner at (804) 273-2770 (joseph.hegner@dom.com) if you have any questions or require additional information.

Very truly yours,



Eugene S. Grecheck

Commitments in this letter: Submit updated Seismic Closure Plan by March 31, 2013.

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
C. P. Patel, NRC
T. S. Dozier, NRC
G. J. Kolcum, NRC