

January 21, 2016

Mr. Robert Gray, Chief  
Pamunkey Tribe of Virginia  
64 Lay Landing Road  
King William, VA 23086

SUBJECT: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT FOR THE NORTH ANNA POWER STATION INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST REGARDING CHANGES TO THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION TO ALLOW STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL WITH HIGHER ENRICHMENT AND BURN-UP IN A MODIFIED TN-32B STORAGE CASK (DOCKET NO.: 72-0016)

Dear Chief Gray:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received, by letter dated August 24, 2015, an application from the Virginia Electric and Power Company (Dominion) to amend Materials License Number SNM-2507 for the North Anna Power Station (NAPS) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). On October 8, 2015, Dominion submitted the associated environmental report. The NAPS ISFSI is located within the site boundary of the NAPS, in Louisa County, Virginia approximately 40 miles north-northwest of Richmond, VA (figure enclosed). Dominion is requesting that its license be amended to change an ISFSI Technical Specification (TS). This change would allow storage of spent fuel with a higher initial enrichment and burn-up (HBU) than currently specified in the TS. The spent fuel would be stored in a modified TN-32B (TN-32B HBU) bolted lid cask with thermocouples to monitor the temperatures in the cask, which will, in turn, support the High Burn-up Dry Storage Casks Research and Development Project sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). The data obtained will provide details on the effects of long-term dry cask storage on high burn-up fuel assemblies. If this amendment is approved, the TN-32B HBU is scheduled to be loaded with HBU fuel from the NAPS during the summer of 2017. The cask will be stored in a vacant spot on the existing Pad 1 of the NAPS specifically-licensed ISFSI.

The NRC regulations at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 72, "Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater than Class C Waste," govern the storage of spent nuclear fuel (spent fuel) generated at commercial nuclear power reactors licensed by the NRC. Spent fuel that has been removed from the reactor's spent fuel pool is typically stored at a nuclear power plant's ISFSI.

The NRC is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action in accordance with the NRC regulation in 10 CFR Part 51 that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). Consistent with 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC staff is coordinating compliance with the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) with its NEPA review process. The EA will include an analysis of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. Dominion anticipates no new construction at the existing NAPS specifically-licensed ISFSI and no impact to the cultural resources if any were present. However, to support the EA, the NRC staff is requesting any information you may have regarding historic or cultural resources that may be affected by this proposed license amendment to the NAPS specifically-licensed ISFSI. The NRC is interested in knowing if you have specific knowledge of any sites that you believe have traditional religious and cultural significance. Please submit any comments or information that you may have regarding this environmental review within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to Ms. Lydia W. Chang, Mail Stop: T-4B16, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. After assessing the information provided by you, the NRC will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 106 process of the NHPA.

The NAPS ISFSI license amendment application is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession Number for the application package is ML15239B251 and the environmental report is ML15289A189.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen of my staff by telephone at 301-415-0867 or via email at: [Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov](mailto:Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Craig G. Erlanger, Acting Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,  
and Environmental Review  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-16  
License No.: SNM-2507

Enclosure:  
Figure – 1 North Anna Site  
Layout (NRC, 1997)

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Craig G. Erlanger, Acting Director  
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,  
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Docket No.: 72-16  
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**ML16020A342**

OFC	FCSE/ERB	FCSE/ERB	FCSE/ERB	FCSE/ERB	FCSE
NAME	JTrefethen via email	DDiaz-Toro via email	AWalker-Smith	LChang	CErlanger
DATE	01/20/16	01/20/16	01/20/16	01/20/16	01/21/16