

April 12, 2016

Ms. Julie Langan
Director and State Historic
Preservation Officer
Virginia Department of Historic
Resources
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221

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
SPECIFICATIONS TO ALLOW STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL WITH HIGHER
ENRICHMENT AND BURN-UP IN ONE MODIFIED TN-32B STORAGE CASK
(DOCKET NO.: 72-0016)

Dear Ms. Langan:

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 Specifications (TS). Dominion is proposing to use one modified TN-32B cask to store spent fuel with a higher initial enrichment and burn-up (HBU) than currently specified in the TS. The TN-32B cask will be modified to insert thermocouples through the cask lid and into the fuel assemblies to monitor fuel temperatures in the cask (TN-32B HBU). This license amendment request would, in turn, support the High Burn-Up Dry Storage Casks Research and Development Project sponsored by the Department of Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute. The data obtained will provide information on the effects of long-term dry cask storage on high burn-up fuel assemblies. If this amendment is approved the TN-32B HBU would be loaded with HBU fuel from the NAPS and placed on the one vacant spot on the existing Pad 1 of the NAPS specifically-licensed ISFSI.

As established in Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR 51), the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the NRC is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action. The purpose of the EA is to assess potential environmental impacts that may significantly affect the human environment. In accordance with 36 CFR §800.8 (Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act), the NRC staff is coordinating compliance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, with its NEPA review process. The EA will include an

analysis of potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. In support of the environmental review, the NRC is requesting your concurrence on NRC's determination that the proposed amendment to the license TS does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming they were present. This determination is based on the following information.

With respect to the original issuance of the North Anna ISFSI license, the NRC staff analyzed the potential environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of the ISFSI. The NRC staff's assessment was documented in an EA, dated March 1997 (ADAMS Accession Number: ML123480192). In this EA, the NRC staff determined that the construction and operation of the ISFSI would not result in an impact to any historic, archaeological or cultural resources. In a subsequent license amendment EA, dated January 2015 (ADAMS Accession Number: ML15022A575), your office concurred with the NRC's determination that the proposed action, to amend TS 4.2.3, "Storage Pad," to revise the allowable distance between individual casks (center-to-center) on the ISFSI pad, did not have the potential to affect historic properties, if present. In addition, Dominion anticipates no new construction at the existing NAPS specifically-licensed ISFSI facility for this amendment.

The NAPS ISFSI 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 for the environmental report is ML15289A189.

Please, provide your concurrence or submit any comments and information regarding this environmental review within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the attention of: Ms. Lydia W. Chang, Mail Stop: T-4B16, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen of my staff by telephone at 301-415-0867 or via e-mail at: Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Jessie Muir Quintero for

Lydia W. Chang, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
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

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Docket No.: 72-16
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Enclosure: Figure – 1
North Anna Site

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML16098A212

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