VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

January 3, 1979

Mr. A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch 1
Division of Operating Reactors
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Serial No. 690/112878
PO/DAC:scj
Docket No.: 50-280
50-281
License No.: DPR-32
DPR-37

Dear Mr. Schwencer:

Subject: Containment Purging During Normal Plant Operation
Surry Power Station Unit Nos. 1 and 2

This is in response to your letter of November 28, 1978 regarding containment purging during operation.

Since both Surry units operate with sub-atmospheric containments as specified in the Technical Specifications, containment purging operations are not allowed during power operation, hot standby, or hot shutdown conditions. The Technical Specifications require that containment integrity be established prior to increasing reactor coolant temperature above 200F and that containment air partial pressure be within specification before exceeding 350F. Operation of the purge inlet and outlet valves above 350F would result in a violation of the Technical Specification concerning containment internal pressure.

Current Technical Specifications require that containment vacuum be maintained for all plant conditions for which engineered safeguards systems are required operational. Physical limitations prohibit containment purging unless containment vacuum is broken. Furthermore, purge valves receive an automatic signal to close on a high radiation signal and there is no installed override capability for this function. For these reasons, we do not feel that an amendment to Technical Specifications is required in regard to purging operations.

In addition, a review of safety injection override circuitry at Surry was conducted. On the basis of this study, it is our position that sufficient physical features, administrative controls, and procedures are provided at Surry to prevent an unsafe override of equipment important to safety.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Stallings

C. M. Stallings
Vice President-Power Supply
and Production Operations

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly

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