



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

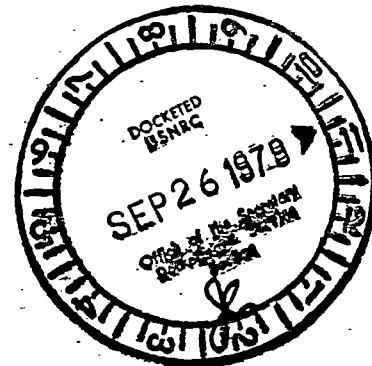
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

September 25, 1979

DOCKET NUMBER 50-339.0L
PROD. & UTIL. FAC. ~~50-339~~ 339.0L

50-280



Honorable John N. Dalton
Governor of Virginia
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Dalton:

Thank you for your September 4, 1979 letter regarding the NRC's licensing schedules for VEPCO's Surry 1 and North Anna 2 nuclear power plants. As you know, Surry 1 was one of several plants that were ordered shut down last March by the Commission because of concerns related to proper seismic design. Since then these concerns have been addressed by VEPCO, and in August the Commission authorized startup of the Surry 1 plant provided that certain design changes were implemented to the satisfaction of the Commission. My understanding is that the plant may be ready for startup very soon. However, late in 1980, the licensee plans to shut the plant down again in order to make steam generator tube repairs.

As to North Anna 2, as in the case of other upcoming applications for licenses, the Commission's staff has presented to the Commission its recommendations for new technical requirements. The Commissioners have decided to review the license application themselves before issuance of the license. The form of this review is in the process of being decided. While I expect a decision on these procedures shortly, I believe that it is unlikely that any new license approved under such procedures will be issued in the next several weeks.

In view of the fact that North Anna 2 is the subject of a pending formal licensing proceeding, I should not go beyond providing you with this general information. Also, in accordance with our rules, I am sure that you will understand that your letter and this reply (as well as future communications on this subject) must be placed in the NRC's public document room and copies of the documents must be served on the parties to the North Anna 2 proceeding. However, there are no such restrictions on the kinds of information that the Commission's staff can provide, and I would urge you to contact Lee Gossick, the Commission's Executive Director for Operations, for further detailed information.

Sincerely,

Victor Gilinsky

Victor Gilinsky
Commissioner

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Richmond 23219

September 4, 1979

John N. Dalton
Governor

Commissioner Victor Gilinski
National Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C.

Dear Commissioner Galinski:

You will recall that at our meeting here in Richmond, we discussed the NRC schedules for returning Vepco's Surry 1 to service and for the licensing of North Anna 2, which is ready to load fuel as soon as the operating license is issued.

I now understand that although the NRC staff has recommended proceeding with the licensing of North Anna 2, the schedule agreed upon is in abeyance as a result of the repercussions from the comments by the President's Commission reviewing the Three Mile Island accident, and subsequent new requirements by NRC for licensing.

I am advised by Vepco that North Anna basically meets the new procedures and requirements, and that the company is ready to meet any additional requirements imposed in the future.

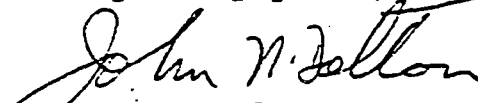
Meanwhile, the people in the company's service area, which embraces nearly three-fourths of Virginia, face the prospect of paying higher electric bills as a result of increased fuel costs, while the energy needed to replace North Anna's generation comes primarily from oil-fired generating plants.

Neither you nor I would want to take a chance on our people's safety in order to save money or energy; however, neither would we want the conflicting views of two government agencies to increase costs to the public unnecessarily in these inflationary times.

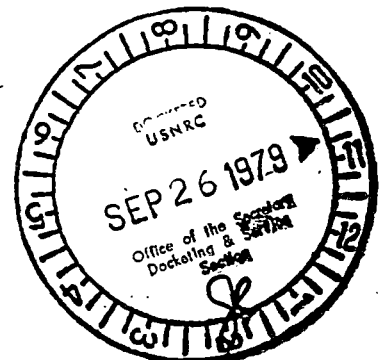
I hope that I may soon hear from you that the licensing schedule has been resumed and will soon reach completion.

With all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,


John N. Dalton

JND/ftp



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER)
COMPANY)

(Surry Power Station,)
Units 1 and 2))
)
)
)

Docket No.(s) 50-280
50-281

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document(s) upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.712 of 10 CFR Part 2 - Rules of Practice, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this

28th day of SEPT 1979.

Reggie T. Downing
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER) Docket No.(s) 50-280
COMPANY) 50-281
)
(Surry, Units 1 and 2))
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