



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
101 MARIETTA ST., N.W., SUITE 3100  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

In Reply Refer To:  
RII:RWZ  
50-280/80-29  
50-281/80-33

DEC 18 1980

Virginia Electric and Power Company  
ATTN: J. H. Ferguson  
Executive Vice President-Power  
P. O. Box 26666  
Richmond, VA 23261

Gentlemen:

During the period August 4-15, 1980, the NRC conducted a special appraisal of the health physics program at the Surry Units 1 and 2 Nuclear Power Station. This appraisal was performed in lieu of certain routine inspections normally conducted in the area of health physics. Areas examined during this appraisal are described in the enclosed report (50-280/80-29 and 50-281/80-33). Within these areas, the appraisal team reviewed selected procedures and representative records, observed work practices and interviewed personnel. It is recommended that you carefully review the findings of this report for consideration in improving your health physics program.

The appraisal conducted at the Surry facility was part of the NRC's general program to strengthen the health physics programs at nuclear power plants. As a first step in this effort, the Office of Inspection and Enforcement is conducting these special appraisals of the health physics programs at all operating power reactor sites. (These appraisals were previously identified to you in a letter dated January 22, 1980, from Mr. V. Stello, Jr., Director, NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement.) One of the objectives of the health physics appraisals is to evaluate the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the total health physics program at each site and to identify areas of weakness that need to be strengthened. We also intend to use the findings from these appraisals as a basis for improvements in NRC requirements and guidance. Consequently, our appraisals encompass certain areas which may not be explicitly addressed by current NRC requirements. The next step that is planned in this overall effort will be the imposition of a requirement by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) that all licensees develop, submit to the NRC for approval, and implement a Radiation Protection Plan. Each licensee will be expected to include in the Radiation Protection Plan sufficient measures to provide lasting corrective action for any significant weaknesses identified during the special appraisals of the current health physics program. Guidance for the development of this plan will incorporate pertinent findings from the special appraisals and will be issued for public comment in early 1981.

The findings of this appraisal at the Surry facility indicate that, although your overall health physics program is adequate for present operations, a significant weakness exists. This weakness is an inadequate maintenance/operation program for air filtration/ventilation systems. This item was identified to your plant management at the exit interview held on August 15, 1980, and also identified to you in a letter from James P. O'Reilly, Director, NRC, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Region II, dated August 20, 1980.

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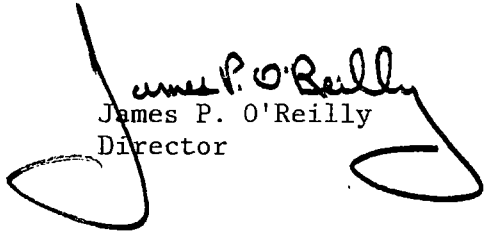
These findings are discussed in more detail in Appendix A, "Notice of Significant Appraisal Findings". We recognize that regulatory requirements pertaining to the significant weaknesses identified in Appendix A may not currently exist. However, to assist us in determining whether adequate protection will be provided for the health and safety of workers and the public, you are requested to submit a written statement within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this letter describing your corrective action for the significant weaknesses identified in Appendix A, including: (1) steps which have been taken; (2) steps which will be taken; and (3) a schedule for completion of action. This request is made pursuant to Section 50.54(f) of Part 50, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations. Your response to the findings listed in Appendix A, should not repeat the commitments made in your September 12, 1980 letter to James P. O'Reilly, Director, NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Region II, but should update those commitments with any additional findings you have obtained since that time.

The findings of this appraisal also indicate certain activities which apparently were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements as set forth in the Notice of Violation enclosed herewith as Appendix B. The items of noncompliance in Appendix B have been categorized into the levels of severity as described in our Criteria for Enforcement Action dated December 1, 1974. Section 2.201 of Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, requires you to submit to this office, within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this notice, a written statement or explanation in reply including: (1) corrective steps which have been taken by you and the results achieved; (2) corrective steps which will be taken to avoid further items of noncompliance; and (3) the date when full compliance will be achieved.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. If this material contains any information that you believe to be proprietary, it is necessary that you make a written application within 20 days to this office to withhold such information from public disclosure. Any such application must be accompanied by an affidavit executed by the owner of the information, which identifies the document or part sought to be withheld, and which contains a statement of reasons which addresses with specificity the items which will be considered by the Commission as listed in Subparagraph (b)(4) of Section 2.790. The information sought to be withheld shall be incorporated as far as possible into a separate part of the affidavit. If we do not hear from you in this regard within the specified period, this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

  
James P. O'Reilly  
Director

Enclosures: (See Page 3)

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Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Significant Appraisal Findings
2. Appendix B, Notice of Violation
3. Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Inspection Report Nos. 50-280/80-29  
and 50-281/80-33

cc w/encl:

J. L. Wilson, Station Manager

APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT APPRAISAL FINDINGS

Virginia Electric and Power Company  
Surry Units 1 and 2

License Nos. DPR-32  
& DPR-37

Based on the Health Physics Appraisal conducted August 5-15, 1980, the following item appears to require corrective actions (Section references are to the Details portion of NRC Inspection Report 50-280/80-29, 50-281/80-33.)

An adequate maintenance/operations program for air filtration/ventilation systems did not exist. This inadequate program directly contributed to the first two items of noncompliance listed in Appendix B (Sections 12.b.1 and 12.b.2).