

Confidential

September 30, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-280, 50-281
License Nos. DPR-32, DPR-37

✓ Virginia Electric and Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. R. Cartwright, Vice President,
Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 26666
Richmond, VA 23261

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM REPORTS NOS. 50-280/88-34 AND 50-281/88-34

This refers to the special, onsite inspection conducted by the NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) during the period September 1-3, 1988. The inspection included a review of the events related to the failure of the refueling cavity floor seal and the subsequent loss of approximately 28,000 gallons of borated water to the containment sump at your Surry Unit 1 facility. At the conclusion of the inspection the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed inspection report.

The AIT concluded that the failure of the refueling cavity floor seal was outside the design basis of the plant and outside previously analyzed conditions. This event did not result in a radiological release or in exceeding a Technical Specification Safety Limit. However, this event raises a significant concern in that refueling operations were conducted (all the fuel reloaded) without confirming that the refueling cavity floor seal would perform its intended design function.

The enclosed copy of the AIT report identifies the areas examined during this inspection. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

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 its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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We appreciate your cooperation during our team inspection and subsequent evaluation of this event. Your open discussion of your findings and evaluations was very beneficial.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by J. Nelson Grace

J. Nelson Grace
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
AIT Inspection Report

cc w/encl:

- ✓ D. L. Benson, Station Manager
- ✓ N. E. Hardwick, Manager - Nuclear Programs and Licensing Commonwealth of Virginia

bcc w/encl:

- ✓ NRC Resident Inspector
- DRS Technical Assistant
- Document Control Desk

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