

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

September 15, 1992

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II - Suite 2900
101 Marietta Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Serial No. 92-354A
SPS/MDK/GDM R4
Docket No. 50-280
50-281
License No. DPR-32
DPR-37

Gentlemen:

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
SURRY POWER STATION UNITS 1 AND 2
SPECIAL REPORT UPDATE
WASTE GAS HOLDUP SYSTEM
H2 MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION

In our letter dated July 3, 1992 (Serial No. 92-354), we provided a special report that discussed operational difficulties with the Waste Gas Decay Tank (WGDT) hydrogen monitors. We committed to provide an update to the report if the hydrogen monitors were not restored to an operable condition by July 31, 1992. The modifications described in the report have been completed, and the monitors have been returned to service. However, operability has been intermittent and improved reliability has not been achieved. Consequently, we are submitting this letter to provide additional information regarding our continuing efforts to improve the operation of the hydrogen monitors. The oxygen monitors continue to operate satisfactorily.

Although we have implemented the corrective actions recommended by the vendors, the reliability of the hydrogen monitoring equipment has not improved. Consequently, we are assessing our alternatives to enhance system performance. We are presently evaluating a short term action plan to improve the reliability of our existing hydrogen monitoring equipment. We are also performing an overall system design review for potential design modifications in the long term. As noted in our previous letter, a Technical Specification change request was prepared and submitted to the NRC on July 28, 1992 (Serial No. 92-486). These changes would delete the requirement to monitor hydrogen in the WGDTs, and would rely on monitoring and restricting the oxygen level in the tanks to avoid generation of a potentially explosive gas mixture. Pending approval of the proposed Technical Specification change, efforts to maintain the operability of the hydrogen monitors will continue. Daily grab samples are taken


9209240043 920915
PDR ADOCK 05000280
S PDR

JEH 1/0

whenever the monitors are out of service to ensure compliance with the Technical Specifications.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



W. L. Stewart
Senior Vice President - Nuclear

Attachment

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. M. W. Branch
NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Surry Power Station