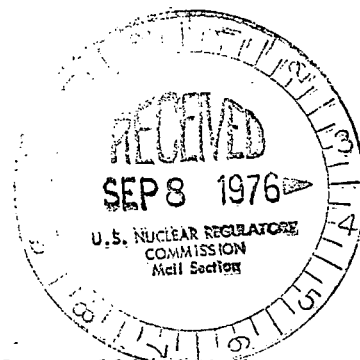


VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

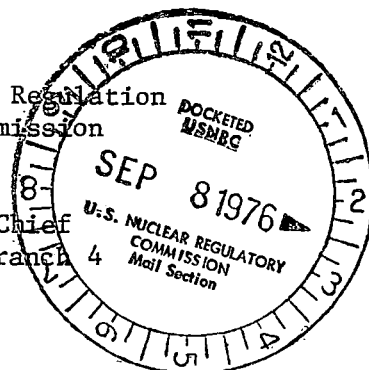
Regulatory Docket File

September 7, 1976



Mr. Benard C. Rusche
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attn: Mr. Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch 4



Serial No. 196/081176
PO&M/ALH:clw

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

Dear Mr. Rusche:

This is in response to your letter of August 11, 1976 concerning reactor vessel overpressure protection.

The Virginia Electric and Power Company (Vepco) is participating in a task group of utilities that has been formed to solve the overpressurization problem in Westinghouse Pressurized Water Reactors. The task group will identify similarities between plants for the purpose of determining a generic solution to the problem. Additionally the task group will identify the means by which the likelihood of overpressurization incidents can be minimized.

Vepco has carefully examined the operating and administrative procedures for Surry Unit Nos. 1 and 2. As a result, a special standing order has been issued that lists the limitations that must be observed during solid plant operations. Permanent changes to existing operating procedures will be made to reflect the findings of the utility task group.

Vepco is committed to providing physical protection against overpressure transients in its reactor vessels. We believe that hardware changes will be necessary to provide assurance that the integrity of a reactor vessel is safeguarded. We intend to fully participate with the utility task group to determine the best method of accomplishing reactor vessel overpressure protection.

The task group is currently scheduled to meet in September in order to finalize the information required in your letter of August 11, 1976. It is anticipated that we will meet the 60-day deadline to provide all of the information requested.

Should you have any questions regarding the program described herein, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at a mutually agreeable time.

Very truly yours,

C. M. Stallings

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

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