UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

7/6/79

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
(North Anna Nuclear Power Station,
 Units 1 and 2)

Docket Nos. 50-338 SP 50-339 SP Proposed Amendment to Facility Operating License NPF-4 to Permit Storage Pool Modification

NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO VEPCO'S MOTION FOR INTERIM RELIEF

On June 18, 1979, VEPCO filed a "Motion for Interim Relief" in the above-captioned proceeding. The motion seeks Board authorization for the immediate installation of new high-density spent fuel storage racks and their use for the storage of up to 243 spent fuel assemblies spaced a nominal 28 inches apart center-to-center until the resolution of the proceeding. It is pointed out that, since the first refueling for North Anna is planned in September, 1979, grant of the interim relief would permit installation of the high-density racks in an uncontaminated pool. This would result in a reduction in occupational exposure associated with the installation activities.

The spent fuel assemblies may now be stored at a nominal 21 inches apart center-to-center under the existing license terms. The proposed storage arrangement would thus be more conservative. The Staff has already conducted a favorable safety evaluation of the overall proposed spent fuel pool modification which would utilize a 14 inch center-to-center spacing. Safety Evaluation (SE), dated January 29, 1979. As relevant to the instant motion, the Staff

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concluded that the structural design and fabrication of the high-density spent fuel storage racks are acceptable (SE, §§2.2, 2.3). Further, the installation and interim use of the high-density racks under the conditions described in the motion do not affect contentions which remain in issue in the proceeding. Accordingly, the Staff supports the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

I too Ally

Steven C. Goldberg Counsel for NRC Staff

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 6th day of July, 1979.

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	50-339 SP
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY	(Proposed Amendment to Facility
	Operating License NPF-4 to Perm
(North Anna Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2)	Storage Pool Modification)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of "NRC STAFF RESPONSE TO VEPCO'S MOTION FOR INTERIM RELIEF" in the above-captioned proceeding have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class or, as indicated by an asterisk, through deposit in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's internal mail system, this 6th day of July, 1979.

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Atomic Safety and Licensing
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