

Paulus

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

October 15, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-79-10

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

FACILITY: Virginia Electric and Power Company
North Anna Power Station, Units 3 and 4
Docket Nos. 50-404 and 50-405
Mineral, Virginia

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION TO COAL FIRED UNITS

Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) announced today that a study has been commissioned to determine the feasibility of converting North Anna 3 and 4 to coal fired units. Stanley Ragone, VEPCO President, gave as reasons for the study the uncertainty of the United States national commitment to nuclear power and the uncertainty of construction and operation of nuclear power plants due to constantly changing nuclear regulatory requirements. Mr. Ragone stated that these factors, coupled with rapidly escalating construction costs, make it prudent for VEPCO and its customers that other sources of power be further considered.

The study is expected to require 6 to 12 months for completion. Currently, construction of North Anna 3 and 4 is approximately 10% complete.

Media interest is expected. The licensee has issued a news release. NRC does not plan to make a news release. The Commonwealth of Virginia has been informed.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from a VEPCO Vice President at 11:35 a.m. on October 15.

Contact: J. C. Bryant, RII 242-5537; C. E. Murphy, RII 242-5540

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