

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
HAROLD R. DENTON, DIRECTOR

In the Matter of)
) Docket Nos. 50-338/339
Virginia Electric and Power Company) and 50-280/281
(North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2)
Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2)

DIRECTOR'S DECISION UNDER 10 CFR §2.206

By letter dated April 5, 1979, Mrs. June Allen, on behalf of the North Anna Environmental Coalition (Coalition), requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission revoke the operating licenses of the Virginia Electric and Power Company's (VEPCO) North Anna Power Station and Surry Power Station, and reverse my decision of February 1, 1979, denying the Coalition's request for a public hearing and environmental impact statement on the Surry Steam Generator Repair Program. The Commission referred Mrs. Allen's letter to the staff for treatment pursuant to 10 CFR §2.206 of the Commission's regulations.

The asserted bases for the request by the Coalition are (1) that in having just learned on March 23, 1978, that Westinghouse had discovered an error in its emergency core cooling system (ECCS) analysis, the NRC should not have licensed North Anna Unit 1 a few days later on April 1, 1978; (2) that the NRC staff should have acted more promptly on its December 5, 1978 Seabrook Board Notification concerning inadequate capacity in the refueling water storage tank and a similar potential occurrence at North Anna; and (3) condenser defects are causing serious steam generator deterioration.

Mrs. Allen's concern related to the metal-water reaction error in the Westinghouse ECCS model was discussed in detail in an expanded chronology which was forwarded to Mrs. Allen by letter dated October 31, 1979 from Secretary Chilk. This letter adequately explained that the North Anna Plant was properly reviewed and no further discussion is considered to be necessary here.

Mrs. Allen stated that the NRC staff should have acted more promptly to notify the Boards in the case of the inadequate capacity of the refueling water storage tank (RWST) at Seabrook and the potential for a similar situation at North Anna. The Boards are notified whenever new information could reasonably be regarded as putting a new or different light upon an issue before a Board. The NRC staff is committed to a policy of notifying affected Boards in a timely manner when a safety issue related to matters before them is raised.

In the case of North Anna, only two issues remained before the Appeal Board, neither of which was related to capacity of the RWST. Nevertheless, the staff did not drop this matter. The staff evaluated the North Anna RWST and concluded that the same problem did not exist. A cursory look at the Seabrook situation and the North Anna RWST capacity as discussed in the North Anna Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) readily shows that the problem that developed at Seabrook does not exist at North Anna. The Seabrook RWST, at 375,000 gallons, had only a 1,000

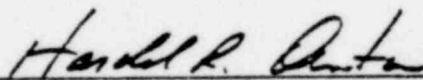
gallon margin when, as a minimum to allow for measurement errors, transfer times and a single failure, it needed an additional margin of 62,000 to adequately provide for the demands of the injection and recirculation mode following a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). North Anna, on the other hand, had a much larger RWST with a capacity of 450,000 gallons. Based on a LOCA demand of 386,000 gallons as stated in the existing FSAR, it had a margin of 64,000 gallons. The staff believes that the RWST volume is adequate for injection and transfer modes of cooling following a LOCA. Thus, although Board notification was not mandatory, the NRC staff satisfied itself that the issue raised at Seabrook was not significant at North Anna.

Mrs. Allen also suggested that the Commission investigate the role of condenser defects in causing serious steam generator deterioration and to explore contradictory views regarding the role of a leaking condenser. It is not the staff's position that condenser leakage is not important. My letter to Mrs. Allen dated July 31, 1979, discusses the relationship of condenser leakage to steam generator deterioration, and concludes that condenser leakage should be minimized. The letter also states that steam generator deterioration may result from causes other than condenser leakage. The steam generator repair program is intended to eliminate or minimize steam generator deterioration from causes other than condenser leakage. However, we are stressing the need to maintain a close watch on secondary water chemistry to minimize the concentration of impurities which may result from condenser leaks.

Based on the foregoing discussion and the provisions of 10 CFR §2.206, I have determined that there exists no adequate basis for revoking the operating licenses for North Anna and Surry, nor for reversing my decision regarding holding a Show Cause hearing on the steam generator repair program and preparing an environmental impact statement. The request of the North Anna Environmental Coalition is hereby denied.

A copy of this decision will be placed in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555, the Local Public Document Room for Surry Power Station located at the Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, and the Local Public Document Rooms for North Anna Power Station located at the Alderman Library, Manuscripts Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia 22901 and the Board of Supervisor's Office, Louisa County Courthouse, Louisa, Virginia 23093. A copy of this decision will also be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for its review in accordance with 10 CFR §2.206(c) of the Commission's regulations.

In accordance with 10 CFR §2.206(c) of the Commission's regulations, this decision will constitute the final action of the Commission 20 days after the date of issuance, unless the Commission on its own motion institutes the review of this decision within that time.



Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 20th day of December, 1979