



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JAN 18 1980

The Honorable Jack Childers
North Carolina Senate
State Legislature Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

The Honorable J. P. Huskins
Representative of the North Carolina
General Assembly
State Legislature Building
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Dear Messrs. Childers and Huskins:

Your letter of December 18, 1979 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners has been referred to me for reply. Under the NRC rules of practice, the members of the Commission may be called upon to review decisions regarding operation of the North Anna Power Station, Unit 2 and, hence, it would be inappropriate for the Commissioners to comment on the matters raised in your letter. Therefore, I am commenting on your letter requesting that the NRC expedite a decision on licensing Unit 2. You further indicated that if there are problems to cause a delay in licensing Unit 2, you would like to receive information regarding this matter.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which we have transmitted to the Attorney General of the State of Virginia which discusses the status of the operating license for Unit 2.

I trust that the letter to the Attorney General explains the NRC position regarding the licensing of Unit 2.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Letter to the Attorney General,
State of Virginia, dated
January 9, 1980

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North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber
State Legislative Building
Raleigh 27611

December 18, 1979

SENATOR JACK CHILDERS
21ST DISTRICT
HOME ADDRESS: 1 CHILDERS COURT
LEXINGTON, N. C. 27292

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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H. Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Commissioners:

The North Carolina General Assembly's Utility Review Committee urgently requests that you expedite a decision on licensing the North Anna #2 nuclear plant of Virginia Electric and Power Company.

The Committee supports efforts to maintain regulations that keep public safety within acceptable levels. Information we have received indicates that this might not be the problem with the North Anna #2 plant of VEPCO. VEPCO officials tell us that they have complied with all of the latest modifications required by NRC. The North Anna #1 plant on the same site (a duplicate of North Anna #2) is licensed to operate. We find it hard to understand that, if safety is a factor, any plant would be allowed to operate.

In the meantime, 200,000 citizens in northeastern North Carolina who are served by VEPCO are paying approximately 50% more for electricity than their neighbors being served by Carolina Power and Light and by Duke. One of the big reasons for this distortion is the fact that VEPCO is not allowed to operate its nuclear plants and must use expensive oil burning facilities to serve its customers. This is not only expensive but is also contrary to our urgent national policy of reducing oil imports.

This northeastern part of the State has little industrial development and the absence of electricity at reasonable rates is making it difficult to attract badly needed new industry.

The people in the area served by VEPCO find it hard to understand why they must pay a 50% premium on already burdensome electric bills -- and so do we. If there are problems to cause this further

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delay, we would be grateful to receive the information. Otherwise,
we urge prompt action.

Jack Childers

Jack Childers
Senate Cochairman
Utility Review Committee

Sincerely yours,

J. P. Huskins

J. P. Huskins
House Cochairman
Utility Review Committee