VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

December 11, 1989

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Docket Nos. 50-338
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License Nos. NPF-4
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Gentlemen:

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
NORTH ANNA POWER STATION UNITS 1 AND 2
SPECIAL REPORT - KAMAN PROCESS VENT
RADIATION MONITOR - RI-GW-178

At 1627 hours on December 2, 1989, with Units 1 and 2 at 98 and 100 percent power (Mode 1), respectively, the Kaman Process Vent Radiation Monitor, RI-GW-178, exceeded the Action Statement of Technical Specification 3.3.3.1. Since the Action Statement requires that the radiation monitor be returned to operable status within 7 days or submit a Special Report within 14 days of the event, this event is reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 6.9.2.

The process vent effluent path is continuously monitored by radiation monitor assembly RI-GW-178. On November 25, 1989, 1-RI-GW-178 began to alarm in the control room every 15 to 30 minutes. The Instrument Department was notified and RI-GW-178 was removed from service at 1627 hours on November 25, 1989, to determine the cause of the alarm. Investigation revealed evidence of water in the gas sampler chamber and smear results indicated that the check source had started to leach. Leaching of a check source contaminates the gas sampler chamber and increases the activity.

The water in the sample lines was a result of condensation due to the heat trace system on the lines being inoperable. Upon receipt of the necessary materials, the heat trace system will be repaired. Following completion of the heat trace system repair, the check source will be replaced, RI-GW-178 will be functionally tested and returned to service, and the Action Statement will be cleared. Based on current procurement and planning schedules, RI-GW-178 is scheduled to be returned to service by December 22, 1989.

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This event posed no significant safety implications because the preplanned alternate method of monitoring was established within 72 hours as required by the Technical Specifications. The Westinghouse Process Vent Radiation Monitors, which perform the same automatic functions as RI-GW-178, remained operable throughout this event. Additionally, the Nuclear Research Corporation Radiation Monitors continued to operate throughout this event as the Technical Specification required preplanned alternate monitoring method on the process vent release path.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Stewart
Senior Vice President - Nuclear

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