

RICHMOND--VEPCO's North Anna 2 began commercial operation on Sunday. As a result, the utility said monthly customer bills will decline 4.3 percent. Washington Post, Washington Star, Wall Street Journal, 12/16.

Commissioner Joseph Hendrie, in a letter to the editor of the Washington Post that responds to an article by Jessica Mathews, writes that she is wrong in implying that the NRC is ignoring the lessons of the Three Mile Island accident. "The NRC moved rapidly after Three Mile Island to deal with the causes of that accident. . .the refining and detailing of new requirements. . .continued through the first half of this year. . .In requiring the various new hydrogen control measures, the NRC has taken account of the many other post-TMI requirements that reduce substantially the chances of a TMI-type accident." 12/16.

Matthew Wald of the New York Times writes how the costs of the Shoreham nuclear reactor have soared. The company estimates that the plant "will be finished in 1983, eight years late, for \$2.2 billion, more than eight times the original estimate of \$261 million," reports Wald. "The delays were beyond the company's control, its officials contend, and were caused by early public opposition to the plant, and continuing rule changes by the Atomic Energy Commission and its successor agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," adds Wald. 12/16.

Maryland health officials have ordered Neutron Products to explain a "hot spot" of radioactivity found adjacent to its property in Dickerson. The radiation from a tiny piece of cobalt-60 was not "life threatening in any sense. . . (but) we cannot tolerate the loss of control of potentially dangerous materials," said a health official. Washington Star, 12/16.

ALBANY, NY--Two state hearing officers recommended that Consolidated Edison be allowed to recover costs of \$42.8 million for the Indian Point 1 nuclear power plant from electric rates over the next 15 years. New York Times, 12/16.

DENVER--Public Service Co. of Colorado has been granted a \$28.3 million rate increase, but the state public utilities commission has ordered the utility to place in escrow about \$9.7 million for possible refund to customers if the Ft. St. Vrain reactor doesn't operate at half capacity during 1981. Wall Street Journal, 12/16.

WASHINGTON--A report by the Department of Energy estimates that nuclear power would probably cost from one and one-half to twice its current cost without government subsidies that have totaled some \$37 billion since 1950. New York Times, 12/16.

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