

NORTH ANNA ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

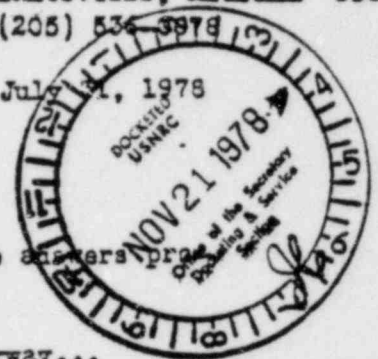
Charlottesville, Virginia

Mailing Address:

412 Owens Drive
Montsville, Alabama 35801
(205) 536-3878

Mr. Edson G. Case, Deputy Director
Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

July 1, 1978



Dear Mr. Case:

We have been waiting since April 11, 1978 for the answers promised in your letter of that date:

"...The investigation you requested is underway...
Measurements of containment settlement is continuing..."

"...The source of the silt which is reported to have clogged the screens of the pumps which remove groundwater leakage under the containment is not now known..."

"...Data concerning the pre-operational performance of the pumphouse underdrain system should become available this spring due to the heavy rains this past winter season..."

"...We intend to obtain the information we need to address your concerns during the next two weeks. Please consider this letter an interim response."

Since your April 11 letter was a reply to a January 24 NAEBC inquiry, we trust that by now that the answers are available to the questions raised on leaking and silt-clogging seven months ago.

We are writing to you today in recognition of the August 3 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). As you are probably aware, North Anna foundation and settling problems are on the ACRS agenda on Friday between 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.

We shall send a copy of this letter plus earlier correspondence to the ACRS, and ask that they hold the NRC staff responsible to answer the questions and issues raised. We respectfully ask that you answer the following questions in writing to the Coalition at the above address:

1. When were measurements of containment settlement begun at North Anna, and what is the amount of settlement to date?
2. What is the source of the silt which clogged the containment pumps?
3. If the silt in Q.#2 is indeed from the "joints and fractures in the bedrock," what is your basis for assuming that its removal would not cause "measurable settlement of the containment"?

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4. What are the settlement measurements to date for the turbine building at North Anna?
5. Has VEPCO had to continue shimming the shaft of the turbine generator? to what measurement?
6. What are the settlement measurements to date for the service building at North Anna?
7. What are the settlement measurements to date for the Auxiliary building at North Anna?
8. What are the settlement measurements to date for the fuel building at North Anna?
9. What additional settlement risks would be caused by doubling the number of assemblies in the spent fuel pool?
10. Do you agree with VEPCO's statement quoted in Mr. Dromerick's 3-28-78 summary that "no additional settlement has occurred since the installation of the groundwater control system"? and with VEPCO's 5-31-73 Report that "the majority of the recent settlement resulted from the installation of the groundwater control system"?
11. If, as VEPCO argues, "all known construction activities and changes in loading that might influence pump house settlement have been completed" and future settlement risks are at a minimum, why is there any necessity to double the allowable pump house settlement from 1.8 to 3.96 inches?
12. On the other hand, since all previous predictions of settlement amounts have been grossly in error, on what basis do you validate current predictions?
13. How do you interpret the pattern of continuing settlement reflected in VEPCO's readings of April 25, May 10, and May 15? Did June and July readings show a similar trend?
14. Both VEPCO and the NRC staff speak of "remedial actions." What remedial actions are being considered beyond those of changing the allowable limits?
15. Since NRC has no experience with comparable expansion joints at another installation, should this not be considered "an unreviewed safety question"?

Thank you for your professional interest.

Sincerely,

June Allen
President, NARC