

50-280



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 3, 1995

Mr. J. P. O'Hanlon
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Virginia Electric and Power Company
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

SUBJECT: SURRY, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND NORTH ANNA, UNITS 1 AND 2 60-DAY
RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 95-07, (TAC NOS. M93526, M93527,
M93490 AND M93491)

Dear Mr. O'Hanlon:

On August 17, 1995, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves." This GL requested certain actions on a 90-day and 180-day schedule and a response within 60 days indicating the licensee's intended actions regarding the requested actions. By letter dated October 16, 1995, Virginia Electric and Power Company submitted its 60-day response to GL 95-07 for Surry Power Station Units 1 & 2 and North Anna Power Station Units 1 & 2. In its response, Virginia Electric and Power Company stated that, because of the effort in developing screening criteria, it intends to waive the 90-day requested actions of GL 95-07 and stated that it will comply with the actions and responses specified in the 180-day required response.

In its 60-day response to GL 95-07, Virginia Electric and Power Company proposed an alternative course of action. However, Virginia Electric and Power Company has not provided the safety basis for determining the acceptability of this planned alternative course of action, as requested by the GL. The staff established the recommended action for the 90-day screening evaluation in GL 95-07 to provide confidence that no short-term safety concerns exist regarding particular valves as a result of pressure locking and thermal binding. The purpose of this action is for licensees to ensure that no critical deficiencies exist in past evaluations, and take action if appropriate. The essence of the 90-day screening evaluation is to conduct an initial assessment, using current knowledge, of all safety-related power-operated gate valves to assure they are operable should they be potentially susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding.

The staff considers a prompt screening evaluation to be reasonable considering the length of time the industry has been aware of and had opportunity to take action for situations involving pressure locking and thermal binding. As described in GL 95-07, the staff has provided several notifications of this issue in the past two years. Additionally, notifications from the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) include Significant Operating Experience Report 84-7, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Gate Valves," dated December 14, 1984, and INPO Significant Event Report 8-88, "Pressure Locking of Residual Heat Removal Gate Valves," dated March 25, 1988.

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Based on our review, we do not find Virginia Electric and Power Company's submittal to be fully responsive. In light of recent industry events involving pressure locking and thermal binding of safety-related power-operated gate valves, we conclude that the decision to waive the 90-day requested actions of GL 95-07 does not allow Virginia Electric and Power Company to assure itself of the current operability of these valves. Therefore, Virginia Electric and Power Company is requested to commit to the 90-day requested actions of GL 95-07 or provide the safety basis for determining the acceptability of the planned alternative course of action by November 15, 1995. Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact the appropriate Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) project manager.

The information requested by this letter is within the scope of the overall burden estimated in GL 95-07, which was a maximum of 75 hours per response. This request is covered by the Office of Management and Budget Clearance Number 3150-0011, which expires July 31, 1997.

Sincerely,

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