



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 197 AND 178 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-4 AND NPF-7

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

OLD DOMINION ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS NO. 1 AND NO. 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-338 AND 50-339

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Appendix B to the North Anna Unit 1 and Unit 2 (NA-1&2) Facility Operating Licenses describes the non-radiological Environmental Protection Plans (EPPs). The EPPs stipulate requirements applicable to monitoring and protecting the environment in the vicinity of the North Anna power station during construction and operation.

By letter dated November 29, 1994, Virginia Electric and Power Company (the licensee) submitted proposed changes to the NA-1&2 Facility Operating Licenses' EPPs. The proposed changes update the EPPs to reflect current obligations to the Commonwealth of Virginia, revise portions of the transmission corridor rights-of-way erosion control program for clarification and to be consistent with the state regulations, eliminate inconsistencies, and delete obsolete material. The EPPs currently provide commitments that are redundant with programs established in compliance with state regulations. The specific changes to the NA-1&2 EPPs are as follows:

1. The Table of Contents is revised as follows:
 - a. The title for Section 3.2 is changed to reflect that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit.
 - b. Subsections, titles, and page numbers are added for EPP subsections 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.2.1, 4.2.2.2, 4.2.3, 5.4.1, and 5.4.2.
 - c. The text for chapter titles is capitalized to enhance readability.
2. Chapter 1, Objectives of the Environmental Protection Plan, is revised to reflect that the construction phase has been completed, to define Final Environmental Statement (FES), and to replace the reference to the NPDES with a reference to the VPDES.

3. Chapter 2, Environmental Protection Issues, is revised to delete references to studies documenting the levels of intake entrainment and impingement [Section 316(b) demonstration requirements of the Clean Water Act] and to the aquatic monitoring programs which confirm adequate thermal mixing [Section 316(a) demonstration requirements of the Clean Water Act]. NPDES is replaced with VPDES and the reference to the "State Water Control Board" is changed to the "Department of Environmental Quality."
4. Chapter 3, Consistency Requirements, is revised to correct typographical errors and replace the references to NPDES permit with VPDES permit.
5. Chapter 4, Environmental Conditions, is revised as follows:
 - a. Reporting of unusual or important environmental events is updated to reflect current NRC reporting requirements.
 - b. Subsection 4.2.2.1 is added to clarify the EPP's requirements for erosion control at the site and to eliminate a records retention inconsistency.
 - c. Subsection 4.2.2.2 is added to clarify that the NRC will rely on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board to regulate erosion and sediment control issues along North Anna's transmission corridor rights-of-way.
 - d. The discussion of vegetation studies is revised to reflect that these studies were completed in 1981.
6. Chapter 5, Administrative Procedures, is revised to indicate that audits of the EPP are conducted in accordance with the approved 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B Program and to correct a minor grammatical error.

2.0 EVALUATION

The majority of the above changes are administrative in nature and either update the EPPs to reflect the licensee's current obligations to the Commonwealth of Virginia, correct inconsistencies, or eliminate obsolete requirements. The NA-1&2 EPPs have not been updated since 1983. Since that time, several changes concerning non-radiological environmental protection have occurred. Particularly, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delegated certain aspects of its authority to individual state regulatory agencies. The EPA has delegated the NPDES permitting to individual state authorities. For the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Department of Environmental Quality issues a VPDES permit. The current EPP references the State Water Control Board as the authority for issuing a NPDES permit. Therefore, the licensee is changing the EPPs to reflect the agency name change.

The changes associated with the four NA-1&2 transmission corridor rights-of-way affect the frequency of inspections for erosion damage within those areas. The current EPPs require that routine inspection of transmission lines "shall

be conducted at approximately 12-month intervals as a minimum." The licensee's proposed change to the EPPs identifies current requirements imposed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, which is responsible for reviewing and approving utility erosion and sediment control specifications. This program is required to be implemented and revised annually. The proposed change to the EPPs retains the requirement to report results of inspections of transmission line corridor rights-of-way to the NRC annually and to retain documentation on erosion damage found, its location, most likely cause, corrective measures, and success of those measures.

However, the current EPPs are more restrictive than state regulations concerning routine inspections of the transmission line corridor rights-of-way. State regulations require "routine" inspections. The frequencies of inspecting the licensee's transmission and distribution network corridor rights-of-way are based upon the specific area, the erosion history, and the transmission line size. The licensee is proposing to change the annual inspection interval to once every three to five years to ensure uniformity with Virginia Power's other transmission corridor rights-of-way. The longer inspection interval applies only to inspections specifically for erosion and vegetation. Inspections of the transmission lines and towers will still be performed annually to ensure that these facilities are in good repair. The licensee has stated that "adopting such performance-based inspection methodology for the North Anna transmission line corridor rights-of-way is considered prudent in that it will provide a uniform standard for all of Virginia Power's transmission line corridors, will continue to ensure proper land management within the transmission line corridor rights-of-way, and will result in a cost benefit."

The studies for the effects of facility operation on aquatic and terrestrial biota as mentioned in each EPP as "will be performed" were completed on or before June 24, 1986. The aquatic and terrestrial environs around NA-1&2 are routinely monitored in accordance with the state-approved VPDES. However, the VPDES permit does not address Section 316(b) demonstration requirements. Therefore, the licensee is correcting the EPPs to reflect these facts.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's proposed changes to the EPPs and finds them acceptable. The majority of changes are administrative in nature and only serve to clarify the current EPPs. Specifically, references to NPDES permits are changed to reflect the correct permit title, VPDES. Vegetation and aquatic biota studies referred to in the EPPs have been satisfactorily completed. The discussion of the detailed subject matter in these studies is removed because it is extraneous information. A reference to 10 CFR 51.5(b)(2), which does not exist, is corrected to 10 CFR 51.60(b)(2). The explicit reporting requirements for unusual or important environmental events are replaced with the reporting requirement which the NRC has required pursuant to 10 CFR 50.72 (b)(2)(vi). Therefore, the reporting inconsistency is resolved. The description of the audit program to be utilized for auditing the EPP is replaced by referring to the Audit Program established in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B. Another inconsistency is eliminated by revising the 2-year records retention requirement for erosion control inspection field logs to 5 years. This makes the requirement consistent with EPP Section 5.2, Records Retention. References to the State

Water Control Board are updated to that agency's successor, the Department of Environmental Quality.

Additionally, the licensee's obligation to comply with Virginia regulations concerning erosion and sediment control within the transmission corridor rights-of-way are recognized to eliminate redundancy with previous EPP commitments. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is recognized as the regulatory authority concerning erosion within the transmission corridor rights-of-way. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board reviews and approves erosion and sediment control specifications submitted by utilities on an annual basis. The licensee's proposed change to increase the inspection interval in this area is therefore acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Virginia State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comment.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35 an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared and published in the Federal Register on February 16, 1996 (61 FR 6268). Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission has determined that the issuance of these amendments will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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