



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

E. Case

FEB 22 1978

Ms. June Allen
North Anna Environmental Coalition
112 Hallmark North
Briarcrest Gardens
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

Dear Ms. Allen:

Thank you for your letter of January 10 to the Chairman and Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The issuance of operating licenses for North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2 is under consideration by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Since any decision by the Board is subject to review by the Commission, it would not be appropriate for the Commissioners to comment on the details of the review at this time. Accordingly, your letter was referred to me for reply.

As was stated and explained in my letter to you dated February 9, we have evaluated the cluster of microearthquakes at Lake Anna and concluded that their presence does not impact the safe operation of the North Anna power plants.

The observation that a hypothetical projection of the Stafford Fault Zone southwest from Fredericksburg would intersect in the same general area of the reservoir has been noted. We have evaluated this together with other information on the Stafford Fault Zone developed by the U. S. Geological Survey and by the utilities. Our evaluation of this feature appears in Supplement No. 5 of the Safety Evaluation Report (December 29, 1976). We concluded that the Stafford Fault is not capable in the meaning of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 100 and poses no danger to the safe operation of the North Anna power plants.

As a result of your telephone conversation with Mr. McMullen of our staff on February 3 we have been able to identify the work funded by the National Science Foundation to which you referred. We contacted Professor Bruce Goodwin, a geologist at the College of William and Mary, who is supervising this research. He stated that the work is being carried out by undergraduates as part of a general program supported by NSF. This may explain why in previous contacts geologists and geophysicists at the National Science Foundation were unaware of the work. The students are conducting investigations south of the James River, well away from the vicinity of the North Anna plants. It is too early to draw any conclusions based on the investigations.

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Ms. June Allen

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Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Edson G. Case, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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