

March 14, 1978

Mrs. P. M. Allen, President  
North Anna Environmental Coalition  
112 Hollmark North  
Briarcrest Gardens  
Bershey, PA 17033

Dear Mrs. Allen:

In response to your letter to Mr. Myer Bender, Chairman, ACRS, dated January 4, 1978, the Committee has asked that the following information be provided to you.

1. The Committee considered the microearthquakes detected by the VERCO not in the vicinity of the North Anna Power Station in its review and approval of this facility. The additional information reported since the Committee reviewed this project has been brought to the attention of the members. Based on comments from USGS representatives, as noted below, the Committee continues to believe that these microseismic events do not indicate the presence of a significant risk to the North Anna Station.
2. Representatives of the USGS have examined the microseismic history in the vicinity of the North Anna Station, including the information you brought to the Committee's attention, and do not consider this data unusual or indicative of any particular problems.
3. The ACRS has not approved a "design deficiency" for the North Anna Station. The ACRS has examined the features of the North Anna site and the plant seismic design and has concluded that the seismic design values of 0.12g and 0.18g as applied to the North Anna Station are adequate. In its report of January 17, 1977 the Committee concurred in general with the recommendations of its consultants that a minimum safe shutdown earthquake of 0.2g acceleration should ordinarily be utilized for new plants in the Eastern United States for which construction permit applications are submitted in the future, although the Committee believes that flexibility in this nominal floor is appropriate to allow for special site conditions and specific aspects of plant

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design for which site dependent spectra may be important or for situations where a sound and noncontroversial basis exists for setting lesser criteria.

4. The review by Mr. J. Knight of seismic design margins in systems required to accomplish safe shutdown and safe shutdown heat removal is continuing. Mr. Knight provided a report to the Committee on the status of this work during its 215th meeting, which you attended. We expect a final written report from Mr. Knight on this item within one or two months.
5. The evaluation of seismic design margins has not yet been completed, as noted above. I understand that the ASLE on North Anna Units 1 and 2 issued its decision regarding an Operating License for this facility during February of this year.

Sincerely,

R. F. Fraley  
Executive Director

bcc:  
ACRS Members  
H. H. E. Plaine  
J. Knight, NRR  
L. Crocker, NRR

*gcm*  
*Rm.*

RECORD NOTE: Based on discussion by the ACRS during the 215th ACRS meeting & by R. Fraley & M. Libarkin with J. Knight on 3/13/78 & 3/15/78. Dr. Lawroski concurred in this ltr. by telecon on 3/14/78. Also, Mr. R. Devine of the USGS concurred in this ltr. by telecon on 3/15/78.

FILE: North Anna 1 & 2  
CR 2-4

OFFICE	ACRS					
SURNAME	FRALEY/can					
DATE	3/15/78					