

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

W. L. STEWART
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

March 25, 1988

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Serial No. 87-640A
E&C: BSD/psj:2140
Docket Nos. 50-338
50-339
License Nos. NPF-4
NPF-7

Gentlemen:

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
NORTH ANNA POWER STATION UNITS 1 AND 2
N-16 PRIMARY TO SECONDARY LEAK DETECTION SYSTEM

Virginia Electric and Power Company stated in the attachment to our letter of November 4, 1987 (Serial No. 87-640), that it was our intention to complete installation of our permanent N-16 Primary to Secondary Leak Detection System by April 1, 1988. We have reviewed our action plan for this schedule and find this completion date is not attainable for several reasons.

We are procuring the N-16 detection systems from Merlin-Gerin, a French firm, through their U.S. agent. Since ours are among the first systems to be purchased and permanently installed in the U.S., we are finding it necessary to engage in detailed commercial and technical interfaces to obtain the equipment. These reviews are also necessary to assure that the delivered systems will satisfy the Company's performance requirements and to assure that the design includes human factors considerations. We are, for example, changing the control room touchpad graphics to use English-based nomenclature rather than French (metric) based. We have conferred with a representative of Merlin-Gerin in our offices and have had our personnel travel to France in order to expedite the design interface.

We have encountered certain problems in maintaining the temporary N-16 system. We, in conjunction with the manufacturer and his U.S. agent, are addressing these problems. It is our intent to correct the problems and have the resolutions incorporated into the permanent system design.

As we have previously stated, these units will be among the first systems to be installed; therefore, they will require extensive calibration and system performance verification. An extensive verification period is required to assure reliable equipment operating characteristics and performance. It is also required to collect data which will be forwarded to the manufacturer for his review. This verification period will last for approximately six months after the installation of the system has been completed.

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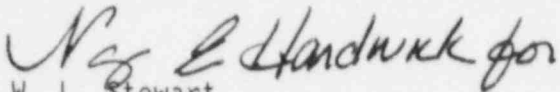
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Based on our progress to date, the presently projected delivery date, the time required for installation, calibration, testing and verification of the permanent system, completion by April 1, 1988 is not possible. Therefore, we now intend to have the permanent N-16 Primary to Secondary Leak Detection System installed by November 1, 1988. We will inform you of any further change to this schedule.

In the interim, we will continue to operate our presently installed temporary N-16 System.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,


W. L. Stewart

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mr. J. L. Caldwell
Senior Resident Inspector
North Anna Power Station