

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261

April 29, 1998

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

Serial No. 98-187A
NLOS/ETS:R1
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
CLARIFICATION OF NRC SER FOR EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
PART-LENGTH CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM HOUSING REPAIR

The purpose of this letter is to clarify two items in the NRC SER and to document the results of a conference call with the NRC staff. In a letter dated April 8, 1998 (Serial No. 98-187), Virginia Electric and Power Company requested the use of an alternate examination technique for the seal welds after the part-length control rod drive mechanism housings were removed and capped. In a letter dated April 20, 1998, the NRC provided a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) that approved the use of the alternate examination technique.

The staff's SER states that "a final examination of the weld surface using a camera and a VT-2 (visual) examination of the weld and cap for leakage would be performed during the post-outage hydrostatic test." During a subsequent discussion, the NRC staff clarified that this statement was intended to specify a post-outage "leakage" test rather than a Code-defined hydrostatic test. In addition, the NRC staff agreed that a VT-2 (visual) inspection during the leakage test of the "reactor head area" instead of "the weld and the cap" was acceptable and was intended in the SER.

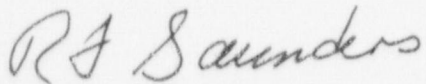
Based on a telephone conversation with Dr. G. E. Edison and Mr. E. J. Sullivan, Jr. on April 28, 1998, the staff confirmed that the inspection requirement to permit a final visual examination of the weld surface using a camera and a VT-2 (visual) inspection of the reactor head area in accordance with IWA-5241(b) during the start-up leakage test of the Reactor Coolant System would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety consistent with the approved relief.

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If you have any questions or require additional information concerning this matter, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R F Saunders".

R. F. Saunders
Vice President – Nuclear Engineering and Services

Commitments made in this letter:

1. None

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Atlanta Federal Center
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Mr. M. J. Morgan
NRC Senior Resident Inspector
North Anna Power Station