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Title: Public Meeting on Draft Site-Specific
Environmental Impact Statement for the
North Anna Power Station Units 1 and 2,
Subsequent License Renewal Application

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Pages 1-20

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE NORTH ANNA POWER STATION
UNITS 1 AND 2, SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION

+ + + + +
TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

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The meeting was held at the Best
Western Plus Crossroads Inn and Suites, 135 Wood
Ridge Terrace, Zion Crossroads, Virginia at 6:00
p.m. EST, Stephen Koenick, presiding.

- NRC STAFF:
- STEPHEN KOENICK, Chief of Environmental Projects
Manager Branch Unit 1
 - ANDREW STIWY, Safety Project Manager for the Review
of the North Anna Power Station License
Renewal Application
 - TAM TRAN, Environmental Project Manager for the
North Anna Power Station
 - KAREN LOOMIS, NRC Staff
 - SCOTT BURNELL, NRC Staff

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T-A-B-L-E O-F C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Stephen Koenick.....3

Presentations

Andrew Siwy.....7

Tam Tran.....10

Opportunity for Public Questions and Comments.....18

Adjournment.....20

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

7:07 p.m.

MR. KOENICK: So I guess we'll go ahead and get started. And I guess Emma is -- you ready to roll?

COURT REPORTER: Yes.

MR. KOENICK: Perfect.

Okay. Well, good evening. My name is Stephen Koenick and I am the Environmental Projects Manager Branch Unit 1 Chief at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and I'd like to welcome you to our in-person meeting to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement related to the North Anna Power Station Units 1 and 2 subsequent license renewal application.

Something you will hear -- so I'm at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC. You will hear it referred to during this meeting.

I am the senior agency official for this meeting and it's also my pleasure to be the facilitator for today's meeting. And I will do my best to help make this meeting worthwhile for everyone and I hope you'll help us out with that.

Now a term you're going to hear a lot

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1 today is EIS. And EIS, or Environmental Impact
2 Statement documents the NRC staff's analysis of
3 potential impacts of a proposed major federal
4 action on different aspects of the human
5 environment such as land use, air quality, geology
6 and soils, surface and groundwater, terrestrial and
7 aquatic ecology, human health, environmental
8 justice, postulated accidents, and more.

9 The EIS also documents the staff's
10 evaluation of the alternatives to the proposed
11 action, which in this case is continued operation
12 of the North Anna Power Station for an additional
13 20 years. Today's meeting is just one of the why
14 you can participate in the process, and we'll be
15 going into more detail about that later.

16 Our goals today are to, one, provide an
17 overview of the EIS, of the draft EIS associated
18 with the North Anna subsequent license renewal
19 which was published in the Federal Register; the
20 reference is 89FR960, on January 8th, 2024, for a
21 45-day comment period. The second thing we'd like
22 to discuss is the staff's preliminary
23 recommendation. And finally, we'd like to get your
24 comments on the draft EIS.

25 I note this will be the same slides as

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1 presented during a virtual meeting held on January
2 30th. And I will also note that we transcribed
3 that meeting and will do the same for this meeting.
4 If you provided comments previously, you're welcome
5 to give them again, but it is not necessary for
6 them to be considered since the first meeting was
7 transcribed.

8 So back to why we are here today.
9 Specifically the NRC issued for public comment a
10 draft Environmental Impact Statement, or DEIS,
11 published as NUREG-1437, Supplement 7(a), Second
12 Renewal of the Site-Specific Environmental Impact
13 Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants
14 Regarding Subsequent License Renewal for North Anna
15 Power Station Units 1 and 2 Draft Report for
16 Comment.

17 The DEIS supersedes the draft
18 supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
19 published as NUREG-1437, Supplement 7, Second
20 Renewal. And that was published for public comment
21 on August 25th of 2021 and includes the NRC staff's
22 site-specific evaluation of the environmental
23 impacts of the subsequent license renewal, SLR, for
24 North Anna for each of the environmental issues
25 that were previously dispositioned as Category 1

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1 issues, or generic to all power plants.

2 The DEIS considers information
3 contained in the Virginia electric and power
4 company, Dominion, also known as the Applicant,
5 September 28th, 2022 submittal which supplemented
6 its environmental report in the Dominion's 2020 SLR
7 application. The DEIS also considers
8 whether there is significant new information that
9 would change the NRC staff's conclusions concerning
10 Category 2 issues specific to individual nuclear
11 power plants in the August 2021 DSEIS. The NRC
12 staff prepared the DEIS in accordance with the
13 Commission's direction from February 2022.

14 The meeting will have two parts.
15 First, we'll hear a presentation from the NRC staff
16 on the topics at hand. And then we will hear from
17 you on comments that you may have on the DEIS. And
18 that is the real reason why we're here today, to
19 listen to you.

20 The NRC categorizes this meeting as a
21 comment gathering meeting, so we will be actively
22 seeking your input after we complete our
23 presentation. We'll be going over the various ways
24 that you can provide your comments at this meeting
25 once we have finished the presentations.

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1 Again, keep in mind that we are
2 transcribing this meeting to make sure we are fully
3 capturing your comments to help us get a clean
4 recording by minimizing background noise in the
5 room. And if you choose to speak, please identify
6 yourself and any group or organization you are with
7 when you speak.

8 And another item is our public comment
9 -- our public meeting feedback form. And there is
10 a link on the public meeting feedback on the NRC
11 public meeting schedule page for this meeting.
12 Your opinion on this meeting how it went will help
13 us improve future meetings, so please take a moment
14 to let us know how you think we did.

15 And I wanted to introduce a couple of
16 the NRC speakers. You will hear from Andrew Siwy.
17 He is the license renewal safety project manager.
18 And then Tam Tran. He is the environmental project
19 manager.

20 With that, I'll turn things over to
21 Andrew and Tam and I'll come back after the
22 presentation.

23 MR. SIWY: Thank you, Steve.

24 As Steve said, my name is Andrew Siwy.
25 I'm the safety project manager for the review of

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1 the North Anna Power Station renewal application.

2 Next slide, please? This slide has an
3 overview of today's presentation. I'll take a
4 moment to talk about the NRC regulatory role and
5 its mission. Next I'll touch on the background for
6 the North Anna application and then I'll present
7 the overview of the North Anna license renewal
8 project milestones. And Tam Tran will present the
9 staff environmental review and results. Then we'll
10 continue to the collection of public comments.

11 The NRC is an independent agency that
12 regulates the domestic use of nuclear materials
13 including the use of nuclear materials for electric
14 power generation such as North Anna Power Station.
15 NRC authority and environmental obligation comes
16 from three main statutes: the Atomic Energy Act,
17 the Energy Reorganization Act, and the National
18 Environmental Policy Act.

19 The Atomic Energy Act authorizes the
20 NRC to grant 40-year licenses for nuclear power
21 plants and to grant renewed operating licenses.
22 The Energy Reorganization Act created the NRC from
23 the Atomic Energy Commission. The National
24 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, requires federal
25 agencies to prepare Environmental Impact

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1 Statements, or EISs, for proposed major federal
2 actions prior to deciding on the proposal.

3 The EIS provides a systematic approach
4 in evaluating environmental impacts of the proposed
5 action and alternatives to the proposed action.

6 The proposed action for North Anna is the
7 renewal of the operating licenses. The NEPA also
8 encourages public participation, as Steve
9 mentioned, which is part of the reason why we're
10 here today.

11 In conducting any review, the NRC's
12 mission is threefold: to ensure adequate protection
13 of the public health and safety, to promote the
14 common defense and security, and to protect the
15 environment.

16 For the North Anna license renewal
17 review the NRC objectives are to determine whether
18 North Anna can continue to be operated safely for
19 an additional 20 years and to determine the
20 environmental impacts from such continued
21 operation.

22 This slide shows licensing history for
23 North Anna Power Station. North Anna received its
24 operating licenses for Unit 1 and Unit 2 on April
25 1st, 1978 and August 21st, 1980, for 1 and 2,

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1 respectively. The current licenses would expire on
2 April 1st, 2038 and August 21st, 2040, if they are
3 not renewed. The license renewal for North Anna
4 would allow continued operation for these units for
5 an additional 20 years.

6 This slide lists the license renewal
7 application review milestones and status and is
8 available on the NRC public website. So if you
9 can't see it right now, you can blow it up from the
10 website. As you can see, we received the
11 application in August of 2020 and accepted it in
12 October of 2020. We issued the draft Environmental
13 Impact Statement on December 28th, 2023 and the
14 draft EIS comment period will end on February 22nd,
15 2024.

16 Looking ahead, we plan to issue the
17 final EIS in July. Also in July the US EPA Federal
18 Register notice will be published for the
19 availability of the final EIS. We expect to have
20 the final decision on the issuance of the renewed
21 license in August of 2024.

22 And now I'll turn it over to Tam.

23 MR. TRAN: Thank you. My name is Tam
24 Tran. I'm an environmental project manager for the
25 North Anna Power Station subsequent license

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1 renewal. I'm going to go over the environmental
2 review by staff.

3 The NRC staff documents its environment
4 review in an EIS which incorporate public comments,
5 and it is publicly available for inspections.

6 Some environmental impacts related to
7 license renewal are similar across multiple plants;
8 to improve efficiency the NRC use generic EIS to
9 address this impacts that are common to all nuclear
10 power plants, or for the distinct subsets of
11 plants. For example, plants that use cooling tower
12 or plants that use cooling pond are subsets of
13 plants in the generic EIS.

14 As part of the environmental review the
15 NRC staff examines the conclusions in the generic
16 EIS to determine if there is any new significant
17 information. In plain language in the supplemental
18 EIS the staff answers the question is there any new
19 significant information that would change the
20 conclusions in the generic EIS?

21 The staff also supplement the generic
22 EIS with a discussion of the environmental impacts
23 that are specific to North Anna Power Station
24 license renewal. For North Anna Power Station the
25 results are documented in a supplemental EIS and a

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1 site-specific EIS.

2 In 2021 staff issue a draft SEIS for
3 public comment. In 2023, consistent with the
4 Commission direction, staff issued a site-specific
5 draft EIS for public comment. The site-specific
6 draft EIS serves three purposes: (A) address all,
7 upon a site-specific basis, those issues that were
8 previously treated as generic issues in the 2021
9 draft EIS; (B) updates and revises the evaluation
10 of the site-specific issues in the 2021 draft SEIS;
11 and (C) addresses public comment received on the
12 2021 draft SEIS.

13 For environmental review the NRC looks
14 at a wide range of environmental resources and
15 evaluates the impact to these resource areas from
16 the continued operation of North Anna. This slide
17 illustrates the resources that the NRC reviews. As
18 is documented in the draft EIS, the staff looked at
19 socioeconomics, air quality, water quality, human
20 health, aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, et
21 cetera.

22 In performing the environmental review,
23 the staff is aided with information from: (A) the
24 license renewal application; (B) consultation with
25 federal, state, Tribal, and local government

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1 agencies; (C) the NRC's own independent
2 environmental review, which includes audit of the
3 North Anna Power Station; and (D) public comments
4 such as from today's meeting.

5 The NRC staff addresses its
6 environmental resource area by analyzing the
7 impacts that the operation of North Anna Power
8 Station may have on the resource area. The staff
9 then categorizes the impact level as small,
10 moderate, or large. These impact levels are
11 defined as: (A) the impacts are not detectable or
12 noticeable; (B) the impacts are detectable but does
13 not destabilize the resource area; or (C) the
14 impacts are sufficiently substantial which alter
15 and destabilize the resource area.

16 For some environmental resource areas,
17 the categorization of the impact is dictated by
18 statutes or executive orders and not by the NRC's
19 small, moderate, or large determinations. This
20 slide shows the definition of the impact for
21 threatened and endangered species and essential
22 fish habitats.

23 Under the Endangered Species Act there
24 are three levels of impact: (A) no effect; (B) may
25 affect is not likely to adversely affect or modify;

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1 or (C) may affect and is likely to adversely affect
2 or modify.

3 Similarly, under the Magnuson-Stevens
4 Act there are three levels of impact: (A) no
5 adverse impact; (B) minimal adverse impact; and (C)
6 substantial adverse impact.

7 This slide shows the definition of
8 impacts for cultural and historic resources and
9 environmental justice. For environmental justice
10 the staff follows the Commission guidance in
11 looking at whether there is disproportionately high
12 adverse human health environmental effects on
13 minority and low-income populations.

14 For North Anna the preliminary results
15 show impacts for all of the resource areas listed
16 on this slide including land use, air quality,
17 surface water, groundwater, aquatic and terrestrial
18 resources, and socioeconomic, et cetera.

19 With respect to special species and
20 habitats, the continued operation of North Anna may
21 affect but it's not likely to adversely affect the
22 northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and
23 monarch butterfly and has no adverse effects on
24 essential fish habitats. In evaluating the impacts
25 for special status species and habitats the staff

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1 consulted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
2 National Marine Fishery Service, as appropriate.

3 In looking at historic and cultural
4 resources the staff consulted with state historic
5 preservation officer and Tribal nations that have
6 historical ties with the North Anna Power Station
7 vicinity. The preliminary results indicate that
8 the proposed action, which is license renewal, will
9 not adversely affect historic properties. This is
10 based on: (A) any known location of historic
11 properties within and hear the area of potential
12 effect; (B) Tribal input; (C) the applicant's
13 administrative procedure; (D) state historic
14 preservation officer input; and (E) no planned
15 physical changes or ground- disturbing activities.

16 For environmental justice the
17 preliminary results show no disproportionately high
18 adverse human health and environmental effects on
19 minority and low-income populations.

20 For cumulative impacts the National
21 Environmental Policy Act requires the staff to take
22 a hard look at the impacts of continued operation
23 of North Anna Power Station in combination with
24 other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable
25 future action in the area. The results are

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1 discussed in Section 3.1.5 of the draft EIS,
2 further discussed on the next slide.

3 For postulated accident at North Anna
4 Power Station the results are discussed in the
5 draft EIS Section 3.11.6.9, specifically the
6 results of the severe accident mitigation
7 alternative review listed in Appendix F of the
8 draft EIS.

9 This slide shows all the actions nearby
10 North Anna which were considered by the NRC staff
11 for cumulative impacts to the environment. This
12 includes on-site projects, fossil fuel and
13 renewable energy facilities in the vicinity, nearby
14 military facilities, et cetera, as listed on this
15 slide and in the Appendix E of the EIS.

16 For alternatives to North Anna license
17 renewal the staff initially considered 16
18 alternatives. For reasons of technical
19 consideration, resource availability limitations,
20 commercial limitations, or regulatory limitations
21 the staff eliminated 13 alternatives from in-depth
22 evaluations. The staff evaluated two
23 power replacement alternatives in depth in the
24 draft EIS. These are: (A) new nuclear
25 alternatives; (B) a combination alternative

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1 consisting of solar, offshore wind, small modular
2 reactor, and demand side management. The staff
3 also evaluate the no-action alternative for which
4 North Anna licenses are not renewed.

5 Table 2-2 in the draft EIS shows impact
6 comparison of North Anna license renewal with
7 alternatives to license renewal. Each of the two
8 reasonable replacement power alternatives has
9 environmental impacts in at least four resource
10 areas that are greater than impacts of license
11 renewal for North Anna.

12 In considering reasonable replacement
13 power alternatives the staff consulted with
14 information from various sources including: (A) the
15 applicant's environmental report; (B) U.S.
16 Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental
17 Protection Agency reports; and (C) power industry
18 sources and publications.

19 As discussed in the draft EIS, the
20 staff conclusions show the adverse environmental
21 impacts of North Anna Power Station license renewal
22 are not so great that preserving the option of
23 license renewal for energy planning decision maker
24 would be unreasonable. In plain language the
25 environmental impacts of continued operation of

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1 North Anna Power Station are not so great that
2 would warrant the denying of the renewed licenses.

3 This slide provides links to several
4 important web pages. You can inspect the North
5 Anna draft EIS at the local libraries listed on
6 this slide. You can access the North Anna project
7 information at the link listed on this slide. You
8 can also use NRC Agencywide Document Access and
9 Management System, so-called ADAMS, at the link
10 listed on this slide to access and search NRC
11 documents of interest.

12 The website for North Anna project has
13 links to the license renewal application, the
14 environmental report, the current schedule, the
15 draft EIS, and project managers associated with the
16 North Anna Power Stations. in addition to the
17 North Anna EIS if you would like to receive
18 correspondences related to the North Anna project,
19 you can also join the operating reactor
20 correspondent at the link listed on this slide.

21 This slide show how you can submit
22 comments on the draft EIS. The NRC will accept
23 comments through February 22nd, 2024. You can
24 submit comments by mail or through the
25 regulations.gov website. You can download this

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1 slide package from the same NRC public meeting
2 notice system that announced today's meeting.

3 This completes my presentation, and I
4 will now turn the meeting over to Steve.

5 MR. KOENICK: Andrew and Tam, thank you
6 for the informative presentation.

7 At this point in time, we typically
8 would open up the floor to questions on the
9 presentations. Does anybody have any questions on
10 the presentation that was just provided?

11 (No audible response.)

12 MR. KOENICK: Seeing that there are no
13 questions or comments on the presentation, the next
14 step would be to open up the floor to members of
15 the public who wish to provide any comments on the
16 draft Environmental Impact Statement. Do we have
17 anybody who wants to make a comment on the draft
18 Environmental Impact Statement?

19 (No audible response.)

20 MR. KOENICK: Okay. What I will do is
21 I will provide a brief understanding of the next
22 steps and then I would offer that we'll probably
23 hang out for -- until about quarter of 8:00 and
24 then probably conclude the meeting.

25 So, a brief understanding of the next

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1 steps. I wanted to reiterate that the NRC will
2 consider all comments received on the DSEIS, or the
3 DEIS. That is from the transcription of the
4 webinar held last week, as well as any comments
5 submitted by the methods that Tam offered. And
6 they will be documented in Appendix A of the final
7 Environmental Impact Statement.

8 And the next steps for the staff will
9 be to collate all the comments received during the
10 comment period and provide responses to those
11 comments. Some of the comments will be actually
12 incorporated into the EIS itself while others will
13 just be dispositioned within Appendix A.

14 The North Anna final EIS is scheduled
15 to be published in July of 2024.

16 And for today's meeting a meeting
17 summary will be issued and will be posted on the
18 North Anna Project website.

19 And if you have any questions or want
20 to be -- please email Tam Tran -- and that's
21 tam.tran@nrc.gov -- with your email address if you
22 would like to receive the final EIS.

23 So, at this point I guess, court
24 reporter, should we just pause? And we'll wait for
25 a few minutes and then I'll go ahead and close the

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1 meeting at quarter of -- if there are no members of
2 the public.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4 went off the record at 7:35 p.m. and resumed at
5 7:45 p.m.)

6 MR. KOENICK: Okay. Seeing that we
7 have no comments to be provided and we've done --
8 we've waited a little while, I will go ahead and
9 conclude tonight's meeting. And I'd like to thank
10 everybody for their attendance this evening. So
11 thank you and have a good evening.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13 went off the record at 7:46 p.m.)

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