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VIRGINIA POWER

November 5, 1999

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GL99-057

Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

DOCKET NUMBER
PETITION RULE PRM 51-7
(64FR 48117)

**NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI); RECEIPT OF PETITION FOR
RULEMAKING; 10 CFR PART 51**

Virginia Power appreciates the opportunity to comment on NEI's petition for rulemaking that requests that the NRC amend its regulations to delete the requirement for the NRC to evaluate Severe Accident Mitigation Alternatives (SAMA) as part of its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review associated with license renewal. Notice of the receipt and docketing of the petition was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 64, No. 170) on Thursday, September 2, 1999, pages 48117-48120. Its docket number is PRM-51-7.

We concur with NEI's position that this action will achieve consistency in the scope of the NRC's regulatory requirements associated with NEPA and license renewal.

If you need further information, please contact either:

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Respectfully,

James H. McCarthy, Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Operations Support

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