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NRC STAFF ISSUES PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR PLANT

Performance superior in plant operations, maintenance & plant support;
good in engineering

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for Virginia Power Company's North Anna nuclear power plant near Mineral, Virginia, which continues previously assessed "superior" ratings in the areas of plant operations, maintenance and plant support but rates engineering from a previous level of "superior" to "good."

The report, which covers a period from December 25, 1994 through January 11, 1997, says continued superior performance in the area of plant operations was characterized by strong management oversight. Superior performance in maintenance was due to strong management support, excellent planning and high quality work. A superior rating also continued from the last assessment period in the category of plant support, which includes radiological controls, emergency planning, physical security and fire protection.

NRC officials said plant performance in the engineering category was excellent in major areas but went from a previous "superior" assessment to one of "good" because facility modifications resulted in some operations which differed from the plant's Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR), upon which the plant's license is based. FSAR requirements were not adequately incorporated into procedures, and procedures were neither changed nor clearly written to assure that commitments were appropriately satisfied.

A public meeting between NRC and Virginia Power officials to discuss details of the report has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. (EST) on March 6 at the North Anna site. This meeting, and a following meeting with public officials, is open to observation by members of the public and the press. NRC officials will be

available at the meetings' conclusion to answer questions from interested observers.

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