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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF ISSUES FUEL LOADING LICENSE FOR NORTH ANNA UNIT 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has issued a license authorizing fuel loading of Unit 1 at Virginia Electric and Power Company's (VEPCO) North Anna Nuclear Power Station near Louisa.

The license was issued on November 26 following an initial decision by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which is considering VEPCO's application for licenses to operate the two power reactor units at the North Anna facility.

Activities under the license--which will remain in effect for six months or until a further order from the Licensing Board either approving or denying the application for operating licenses--will be limited to fuel loading and operation in a cold shutdown condition. The reactor will not go critical and no electricity will be produced.

Unit 1 uses a pressurized water reactor and, at full power, would have an electrical output of about 898 megawatts. Construction of the two units at the North Anna Station was authorized by the former Atomic Energy Commission in February 1971. The site is located on the North Anna River 40 miles from Richmond.

Before the license was issued, the facility was inspected by the NRC staff to assure that the facility had been satisfactorily constructed and was ready for fuel loading.

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