

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC ISSUES LICENSE FOR SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION AT NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a license to Virginia Electric and Power Company to store spent fuel from its North Anna nuclear power plant in an independent spent fuel storage installation at the plant site near Mineral, Virginia.

The spent fuel, which is presently stored in a water pool at the site, will be placed in dry casks on concrete storage pads. The pads will be surrounded by both a security fence and a perimeter fence.

The facility will provide storage for up to 839.04 metric tons of uranium contained in approximately 1824 fuel assemblies. Up to 32 assemblies can be loaded into each cask. Virginia Power plans to use the model TN-32 cask, designed by Transnuclear, Inc. The license permits storage for an initial term of 20 years, with the possibility of renewal.

The dry casks, in combination with the existing fuel pool, will provide the capacity to store all spent fuel expected to be generated by North Anna Units 1 and 2 during their currently licensed operating lives, ending on April 1, 2018, and August 21, 2020, respectively.

Virginia Power filed its application for the license in May 1995. NRC published a notice announcing receipt of the application on July 6, 1995, and offered an opportunity for a public hearing. No requests for a hearing were received.

Before issuing the license, the NRC staff conducted an environmental assessment, which found no significant impact, and a safety review, which found that no radioactive materials would be released from the casks under any credible accident conditions. Copies of the environmental assessment, safety evaluation report and other related documents are available for review at the NRC's Local Public Document Room located in the Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22903-2498, and at the NRC Public Document Room located at 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.

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