



Means Business

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**Proposed Remarks for Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
U.S. NRC Public Meeting – Surry SLR
Tuesday, January 8, 2019 (DRAFT 1-3-2019)**

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Hampton Roads Chamber's strong support for Dominion Energy's application to operate its two nuclear reactors at Surry Power Station for an additional 20 years.

The Chamber works hard to build a stronger economy for the Hampton Roads localities and provide new opportunities for the men and women of our communities. And we believe Surry Power Station – if it is allowed to continue to operate – will play a key role in building that stronger Hampton Roads economy into the middle of the 21st Century.

I believe I can sum up Surry's benefits for our region in three words: energy, economy and environment. Please allow me to take a few moments to explain.

First, energy.

A very large portion of the electricity that Dominion Energy provides to customers in the Hampton Roads area is generated at Surry Power Station. That's been the case for many decades. In fact, statistics that I've seen show that as much as one-third of the energy delivered to customers by Dominion Energy in the Commonwealth is generated by nuclear power, at the Surry plant and also at the North Anna facility in Louisa County.

Since it began operation in the 1970s, Surry has built an admirable record of operations and has been consistently recognized as one of the best-run nuclear facilities in the U.S....with the recognition coming from the NRC, publications that cover the nuclear industry, and organizations within the industry itself. Outside of periods of maintenance, it operates on a 24/7 basis.

The people and businesses of Hampton Roads can be confident its energy is there when they need it. And given the recent closure of some older, coal-fired plants in the Hampton Roads area, Surry's role in assuring sufficient power supplies for our region is more important than ever. The Skiffes Creek transmission project crossing the James River is evidence of this importance. The Skiffes Creek line will provide a new, direct link to carry power from Surry to the Peninsula, with its huge concentration of military bases, shipyards and defense contractors.

The assurance of energy security is a critical decision-making point for industries and businesses thinking of relocating to Hampton Roads or expanding their operations. It's very difficult to see how that high level of energy reliability can be maintained without Surry. The Chamber believes it must keep operating.

Our second point centers on the word "economy" – specifically, the major role Surry already plays in the economic life of Hampton Roads.

The Surry Power Station has been called an "economic engine" for the Hampton Roads area, and I believe that's no overstatement. The plant provides employment to hundreds of highly-skilled men and women, with an annual payroll of more than \$80 million. In and of itself, that's a very impressive figure. But the wages have even more impact on the Hampton Roads area as the workers spend their earnings, boosting many other business sectors and operations such as retail stores and service providers.

With the approval of Dominion Energy's application, the "economic engine" of Surry would continue running – and boosting the Hampton Roads economy – for years to come.

Our final point focuses on the word "environment."

In short, Surry Power Station is good for the environment...for the quality of the air we breathe in Hampton Roads...and for our region's continued movement to a lower-carbon environment and economy.

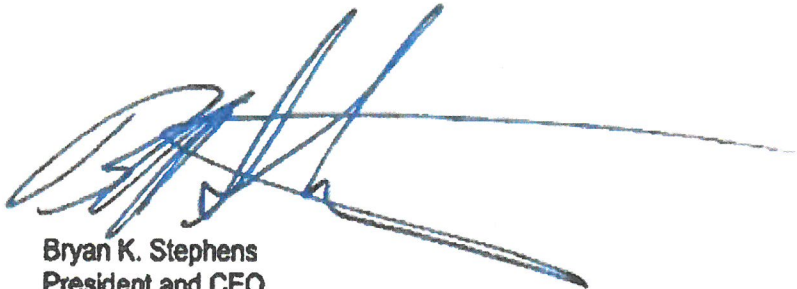
It's been said many times that nuclear power is the largest existing source of clean energy for the Commonwealth. Surry and its sister facility at North Anna produce no air emissions. Of course, that includes producing no greenhouse gas emissions. Obviously, that promotes better air quality, not only for Hampton Roads but for all of Virginia...and beyond. If we're truly committed to clean air, nuclear energy – including Surry -- must continue to play a major role in power generation.

Surry's continued operation is also vital to the continued expansion of renewable resources – including solar and wind power – to generate electricity. Virginia has made great strides in putting these renewable forms of energy to work. And even bigger things are expected in the future – for example, the possible development of very large wind farms just off our coastline.

But, as has been noted many times, these units need support. Obviously, they cannot operate all the time. They are not available on a 24/7 basis...the sun obviously does not shine at night and at times the wind fails to blow.

But when these units are idled, Surry will be able to step in and provide the power that homes and businesses need to keep going. For our renewable sector to continue to develop and grow, the continued operation of Surry is indispensable.

For all these reasons, the Hampton Roads Chamber respectfully asks the Commission to approve Dominion Energy's application. Surry has served our communities well in the past. And we are sure it can continue to do so for decades into the future. Thank you.



Bryan K. Stephens
President and CEO
Hampton Roads Chamber

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