



February 14, 2001
RC-01-0036

Document Control Desk
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION (VCSNS)
DOCKET NO. 50/395
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-12
INTERIM REPORT PURSUANT TO 10 CFR PART 21
(SSH 2001-001)

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) submits this letter in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 21.21(a)(2) as an interim report of an identified defect potentially associated with a substantial safety hazard.

During the monthly surveillance test STP0125.002A on December 21, 2000, the "A" diesel generator experienced load swings during unloading. Following subsequent testing, it was determined that engine operation could be stabilized with removal of the electrical input to the Woodward governor hydraulic actuator, EGB unit. Since the electrical input to this unit is provided by the governor electronic control, EGA unit (Serial No. 1425252), it was decided to replace the EGA unit with a warehouse spare. Replacement of the EGA eliminated the load swing problem.

Following removal of the EGA unit on 12/21/00, an on-site bench test and inspection was performed. Although the EGA successfully passed the bench test, the inspection identified some questionable solder joints on the stability potentiometer (pot). This pot has three ring terminal connections through which wire leads are looped and then soldered. One of the connections had the wire lead looped through it, but did not appear to have any solder on it. If contact between the lead and terminal were intermittent on the stability pot, then the output signal from the EGA would be erratic and cause load swings and instability, as was experienced on 12/21/00. Since all of the pots in an EGA are replaced during refurbishment by Power Control Services (PCS) of Engine Systems, Inc. (a Woodward governor nuclear supplier), adequate soldering of the pot terminals during a previous refurbishment is being questioned. Therefore, this EGA has been sent to PCS for inspection, testing and refurbishment to determine if it

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caused the problems experienced during the surveillance testing. Since results have not been obtained from the vendor, an interim Part 21 report is being submitted.

A substantial safety hazard does not exist at this time because the EGA unit has been replaced with a spare unit. Prior to installation of the spare EGA unit on the "A" diesel generator, it was satisfactorily bench tested on-site and it was inspected to verify that it did not have questionable solder joints on any of the pots. Also, the "A" diesel generator has been successfully tested per Technical Specifications to demonstrate that the load swing problems are resolved.

A final report on the 10 CFR Part 21 evaluation will be submitted within 30 days of receipt of the final report from the vendor, which is expected in March 2001.

Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Kelley Marsh at (803) 345-4796.

Very truly yours,



Stephen A. Byrne

RKM/SAB/dr

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