

February 8, 2017

Mr. Ronald A. Jones
Vice President New Nuclear Operations
South Carolina Electric and Gas Company
South Carolina Public Service
New Nuclear Deployment
P.O. Box 88
Jenkinsville, South Carolina 29065

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS
COMPANY'S LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE VIRGIL C.
SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2 AND 3: NONDESTRUCTIVE
EXAMINATION FOR WELDS OF COUPLERS TO CARBON STEEL
EMBEDMENT PLATES

Dear Mr. Jones:

By letter dated October 27, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Number ML16301A385), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and the South Carolina Public Service Company submitted a license amendment request for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Units 2 and 3. The proposed license amendment requests an amendment that requires changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information and a Combined License Condition which references one of the proposed changes.

The proposed departure consists of changes to Tier 2* information in the UFSAR (which includes the plant-specific DCD information) to clarify how the quality and strength of a specific set of couplers welded to Carbon Steel embedment plates, already installed and embedded in concrete, is demonstrated through visual examination, static tension testing, and magnetic particle examination, in lieu of the nondestructive examination requirements of American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) N690.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Project Manager, Peter Hearn, at (301) 415-1189 or Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Peter Hearn, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s). 52-027
52-028

cc: See next page

ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY'S LICENSE
AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2
AND 3: NONDESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION FOR WELDS OF COUPLERS TO CARBON
STEEL EMBEDMENT PLATES DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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COL SCE&G – VC Summer Mailing List
cc:

(Revised 10/03/2016)

Mr. Jeffrey B. Archie
Sr. Vice President, Nuclear Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
MC D304
220 Operation Way
Cayce, SC 29033-3172

Gregrey Ginyard
366 Lakeview Drive
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Mr. Wayne Guilfoyle
Commissioner
District 8
Augusta-Richmond County Commission
4940 Windsor Spring Rd
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Gwendolyn Jackson
Burke County Library
130 Highway 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Mr. Barty Simonton
Team Leader
Environmental Radiation Program
Air Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Division
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30354-3906

Ms. Gidget Stanley-Banks
Director
Allendale County EPA
426 Mullberry Street
Allendale, SC 29810

Ms. Ruth Thomas
Environmentalists Inc.
354 Woodland Dr
Columbus, NC 28722

COL SCE&G – VC Summer Mailing List

Email

abynum@scana.com (Al Bynum)
ALPUGH@southernco.com (Amanda Pugh)
andy.barbee@scana.com (Andy Barbee)
annacom@westinghouse.com (Michael J. Annacone)
arice@scana.com (April R. Rice)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
baucomc@westinghouse.com (Charles T. Baucom)
bedforbj@westinghouse.com (Brian Bedford)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
burrouno@westinghouse.com (Nicholle Burroughs)
castelca@westinghouse.com (Curtis Castell)
churchcd@westinghouse.com (Carl D. Churchman)
coleja@westinghouse.com (Joseph Cole)
comerj@westinghouse.com (James Comer)
crenshjw@westinghouse.com (John Crenshaw)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
DCRM-EDMS@SCANA.COM
dgriffin@scana.com (Donna S. Griffin)
durhamdc@westinghouse.com (David Durham)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
fbelser@regstaff.sc.gov
Garrett.Sanders@SCANA.com (Garrett Sanders)
gary@jonespartners.net (Gary Jones)
George_Stramback@Charter.net (George Stramback)
gsoult@regstaff.sc.gov (Gene G. Soult)
jannina.blanco@pillsburylaw.com (Jannina Blanco)
jantol1dj@westinghouse.com (David Jantosik)
jarchie@scana.com (Jeffrey B. Archie)
Jeff.hawkins@fluour.com (Jeff Hawkins)
jenkinse@dhec.sc.gov (Susan Jenkins)
jflitter@regstaff.sc.gov
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
justin.bouknight@scana.com (Justin R. Bouknight)
karlg@att.net (Karl Gross)
Katie.brown@scana.com (Katie Brown)
kdfili@southernco.com (Karen Fili)
kinneyrw@dhec.sc.gov (Ronald Kinney)
kmstacy@southernco.com (Kara Stacy)
kroberts@southernco.com (Kelli Roberts)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
majames@regstaff.sc.gov (Anthony James)

COL SCE&G – VC Summer Mailing List

mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
Nicholas.Kellenberger@scana.com (Nicholas Kellenberger)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
paul.mothena@scana.com (Paul Mothena)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
porterhj@dhec.sc.gov (Henry Porter)
r.joshi15@comcast.net (Ravi Joshi)
randall@nexusamllc.com (Randall Li)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
Ronald.Jones@scana.com (Ronald Jones)
russpa@westinghouse.com (Paul Russ)
rwink@ameren.com (Roger Wink)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sara@cleanenergy.org (Sara Barczak)
sburdick@morganlewis.com (Stephen Burdick)
sbyrne@scana.com (Stephen A. Byrne)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
shudson@regstaff.sc.gov (Shannon Hudson)
solleyda@dhec.sc.gov (David Solley)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
TGATLIN@scana.com (Thomas Gatlin)
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
vcsnrc@scana.com (NRC Senior Resident Inspector)
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)
weave1dw@westinghouse.com (Doug Weaver)
William.Cherry@scana.com (William Cherry)
wmcherry@santeecooper.com (Marion Cherry)