

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

POST OFFICE 764

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29218

O. W. DIXON, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

December 2, 1983

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50/395
Operating License No. NPF-12
Preliminary Notification - Fuel
Storage Capacity and Enrichment
Level License Amendment

Dear Mr. Denton:

This letter serves as preliminary notification of South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's (SCE&G) intent to request an amendment to the Technical Specifications for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station in December 1983. This amendment will request authorization to expand the plant's existing spent fuel pool storage capacity and to increase the current maximum enriched fuel assembly limitation.

The Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station spent fuel pool is currently licensed for the storage of 682 spent fuel assemblies at a maximum 3.5% enrichment. Sufficient capacity exists to accommodate the facility's anticipated spent fuel storage needs through 1994. An increase of the licensed storage capacity of the spent fuel pool to approximately 1280 assemblies is required to meet storage needs beyond that date. The increased capacity would meet our anticipated storage requirements through 2006.

Increased storage capacity of the spent fuel pool will be accomplished by replacing the existing wall supported flux trap spent fuel racks with a combination of high density poison and flux trap free-standing racks. Two of the three storage regions will involve credit for burnup. Reactivity considerations for the spent fuel pool rerack and the existing new fuel racks will be evaluated to permit storage of fuel assemblies with up to 4.3% enrichment. It is intended to perform this rerack

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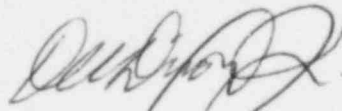
modification prior to first refueling for economic, operational and ALARA considerations. Plans are to completely remove the old racks beginning April 1, 1984 and have new racks fully installed and ready for use by September 1, 1984.

To accomplish this modification within the projected time frame, a high priority review schedule by the Staff and a prompt Licensee response to any subsequent questions is essential. It is anticipated that the final evaluation and report, which will address reactivity considerations, pool structural adequacy, detailed heat loading evaluation and the Licensing submittal requesting the necessary changes to Technical Specifications, will be forwarded in mid-December 1983. A formal presentation to the Staff describing this design change could be made at your convenience during mid-January 1984.

It has been determined that this high density reracking does not present a significant hazard. Hopefully the Staff will support appropriate regulatory approvals which would permit the removal of existing racks by April 1, 1984.

If you have any questions, please advise.

Very truly yours,



O. W. Dixon, Jr.

DCW:OWD/fjc

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