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**NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE'
AT SUMMER IN LATEST REVIEW**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at the Summer nuclear power plant, operated by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company near Jenkinsville, South Carolina.

In a letter to the company which outlined the results of the review, NRC official Robert C. Haag said that "overall, performance at Summer has been consistent " since the July 1998 Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance report in which all SALP functional areas were rated superior. He said plant activities have been performed "in a deliberate and careful manner as demonstrated by the plant being on line since January 1998". Haag added that the NRC will conduct normal inspection efforts at Summer during the next period of evaluation.

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region II Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are being used by the NRC as an interim measure to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the SALP process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight sites beginning in June and will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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