SCE&G SM
A SCANA COMPANY

February 9, 2001
RC-01-0034

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

Gentlemen:

Subject: VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION
DOCKET NO. 50/395
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-12
CHANGE TO REPAIR METHODOLOGY PROVIDED IN JANUARY 16, 2001, LETTER RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS DATED OCTOBER 23, 2000
MSP 00-0244

Reference: Stephen A. Byrne to Document Control Desk Letter Dated January 16, 2001; RC-01-0020

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South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) has determined that minor changes are required to the repair methodology documented in the referenced letter. The referenced letter submitted the responses to the questions provided by the NRC by letter dated October 23, 2000. These questions pertain to the cracked weld in the "A" loop of the Reactor Coolant System.

This change pertains to the weld filler material used in the nozzle-to-pipe weld. The change is minor in significance and does not detract from the quality of the weld. Further discussion of this change is located in the attachment.

Should you have any questions, please call Mr. Phil Rose at (803) 345-4052.

Very truly yours,

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Attachment

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Discussion of change in weld filler material

In the January 16, 2001 letter, in response to question number nine, a plan was provided to document the plan for repairing the cracked weld in the A hot leg. This plan specifically stated that Alloy 52 would be used as the filler material in all welding operations involved in this repair. The Alloy 52 was obtained in the form of welding wire to be utilized in both the temper-bead process and the gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW) process. The temper-bead process was used to perform the weld build-up (buttering) on the nozzle face with minimal heat input. The GTAW process was used to perform the closure weld between the nozzle and spool piece as well as initial repair efforts.

On November 13, 2000, SCE&G submitted a relief request to be able to use Code Cases 2142 and 2143 and their corresponding weld filler materials in the repair of the crack. In this request it was stated that Alloy 52 was to be used for buttering and the closing weld between the reactor vessel nozzle and hot leg pipe. Alloy 152 was identified as being used for any necessary weld and/or weld repair.

The Safety Evaluation, dated December 18, 2000, for the approval of this relief request stated that the use of the Alloy 690 filler materials (Inconel 52/152) and the associated Code Cases will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, there are no concerns or restrictions to the use of these materials for this repair.

This change to the January 16, 2001 letter documents the intended use of the shielded metal arc welding (SMAW) process utilizing alloy 152 in the repair of cavities in the nozzle-to-pipe weld on A hot leg.