

May 22, 2001

Mr. Steve Byrne  
Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company  
Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station  
Post Office Box 88  
Jenkinsville, South Carolina 29065

SUBJECT: V. C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION - EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 55.59  
(TAC NO. MB1170)

Dear Mr. Byrne:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated January 12, 2001. The proposed exemption would allow the licensed operator requalification examinations for the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station to be rescheduled. The requested exemption would extend the completion date for the examinations from May 31, 2001, to August 31, 2001.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Karen R. Cotton, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-395

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS

DOCKET NO. 30-595

V.C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from 10 CFR 55.59 for Facility Operating License No. NPF-12, issued to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G, the licensee), for operation of the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station, located in Jenkinsville, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow the licensed operator requalification examinations for the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station to be rescheduled. The requested exemption would extend the completion date for the examinations from May 31, 2001, to August 31, 2001.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated January 12, 2001.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would extend the current V. C. Summer Nuclear Station requalification program from May 31, 2001, to August 31, 2001. On October 13, 2000, during routine shutdown inspections, SCE&G discovered a leak in a weld in the reactor coolant system. Activities to determine the root cause and extent of condition and to repair the leak

extended through the end of February 2001, months beyond the original scheduled plant restart. To provide the necessary level of licensed operator support to ensure safety throughout the extended plant outage, SCE&G postponed the training and other requalification program activities originally planned during that time.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes, as set forth below, that there are no environmental impacts associated with the extension of the operator requalification examinations from May 31, 2001, to August 31, 2001. The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 18, 2001, the staff consulted with the South Carolina State official, Henry Porter of the Division of Waste Management, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 12, 2001. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of May 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*/RA/*

Karen R. Cotton, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Mr. Stephen A. Byrne  
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company

**VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION**

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