

March 26, 1991

Docket No. 50-395

Mr. John L. Skolds
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 88
Jenkinsville, South Carolina 29065

Dear Mr. Skolds:

SUBJECT: V. C. SUMMER NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGARDING L* CRITERION (TAC NO. 69066)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your submittal dated August 1, 1988, as supplemented August 30, 1990, requesting a license amendment to revise the Technical Specifications to allow the use of the L* criterion as an alternative to plugging or sleeving steam generator tubes.

The Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

George F. Wunder, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

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*am going to publish
before amendment issued*

Mr. John L. Skolds
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company

Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
DOCKET NO. 50-395
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-12, issued to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and South Carolina Public Service Authority (the licensee's), for operation of the V. C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 1 (Summer Station), located in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would allow the licensee to leave steam generator tubes with minor axial cracks in service as long as the cracks were 0.7 inch or more below the top of the tubesheet. The proposed amendment is in accordance with the licensee's application dated August 1, 1988, as supplemented August 30, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the Technical Specifications (TS) is needed so that the generating capability of Summer Station is not reduced unnecessarily.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the TS. The proposed revision would allow steam generator tubes with minor axial cracks to remain in service as long as the cracks were 0.7 inch or more below the top of the tubesheet. Currently, tubes with cracks within 1.6 inches of the top of the tubesheet must be plugged or sleeved. Based on its review, the Commission has concluded that this proposed change is acceptable. The staff has determined that the proposed change does not alter any initial conditions assumed for the design basis accidents previously evaluated nor change operation of safety systems used to mitigate the design basis accidents.

The proposed change does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves components in the plant that are located within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements for the V. C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 1, dated May 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we have concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated August 1, 1988, as supplemented August 30, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Fairfield County Library, Garden and Washington Streets, Winsboro, South Carolina 29180.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of March 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

Elinor G. Adensam, Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

OFC	: NRR:DRPE:PD21	: NRR:DRPE:PD21	: OGC <i>SCU</i>	: NRR:DRPE:PD21
NAME	: <i>PA</i> Anderson	: <i>GM</i> Miller	: <i>S. Adensam</i>	: EAdensam <i>clerk</i>
DATE	: 03/5/91	: 03/06/91	: 03/11/91	: 03/25/91

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*On condition that EA be fully checked in
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