December 3, 2001

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

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES," RESPONSE FOR VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION (TAC No. MB2666)

Dear Mr. Byrne:

On August 3, 2001, the staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized-water reactor plants. You were requested to provide your response to Item 1 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response by letter dated August 31, 2001. The staff finds that you have provided the requested information and that, based on this information, there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained.

Addressees are reminded that Item 5 of the bulletin requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage:

a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this Bulletin.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-395

cc: See next page

b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this Bulletin.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-395

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

VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION

cc:

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