2.6.2.2 Low-Income Populations

NRC guidance defines "low-income" by using U.S. Census Bureau statistical poverty thresholds (NRC 2001, Appendix D). U.S. Census Bureau low-income household numbers for each census tract was divided by the total households for that tract to obtain the percentage of low-income households per tract. U.S. Census Bureau (USCB 2000) characterizes 12.4 percent of North Carolina and 14.2 percent of South Carolina households as low-income. A low-income population is considered to be present if:

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- 1. The low-income population of the census tract or environmental impact site exceeds 50 percent, or
- 2. The percentage of households below the poverty level in an environmental impact area is significantly greater (typically at least 20 points) than the low-income population percentage in the geographic area chosen for comparative analysis.

Based on the "more than 20 percent" criterion, 25 census tracts contain a low-income population (USCB 2002). All of these tracts are found in South Carolina. Figure 2-9 displays the locations of low-income household tracts while Table 2-7 displays the low-income household tract distributions among the counties in the geographic area.

Reference:

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- U.S. Census Bureau. 2002. "Summary File 3: Census 2000." Available at <u>http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/sumfile3.html</u>. Accessed October 21, 2002.
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. 2001. "Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues." NRR Office Instruction No. LIC-203, June 21.
- US Census Bureau. 2000. American Factfinder. "HCT. Tenure by poverty status in 1999 by age of householder [43] – Universe: Occupied housing units: 1999. Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) – Sample Data" Available online at http://factfinder.census.gov/. Accessed October 22, 2002.

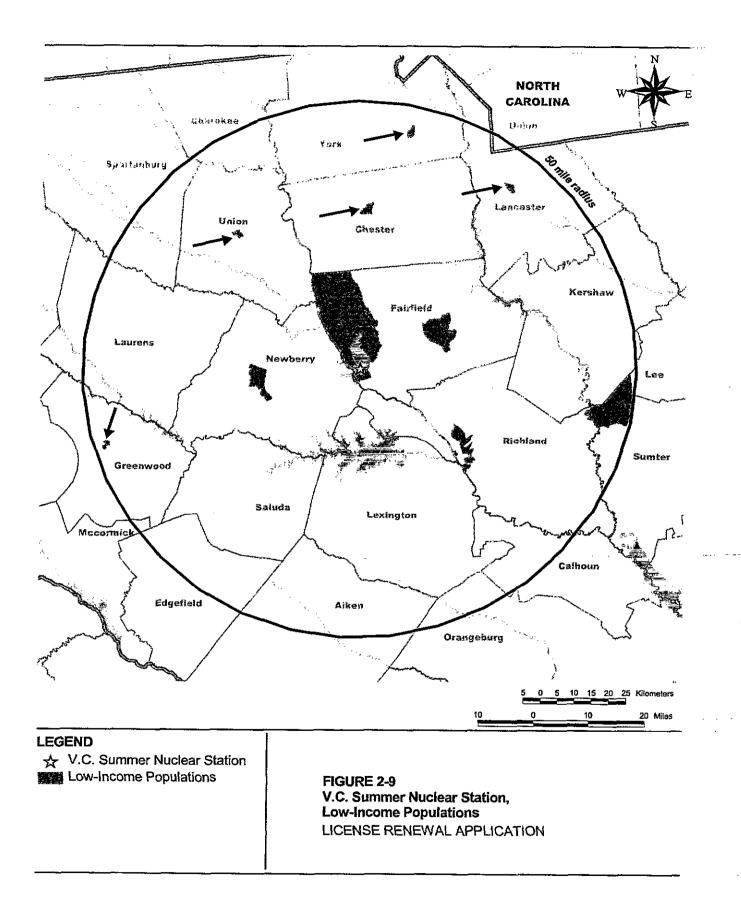


Table 2-7									
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