



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGION 4
 ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
 61 FORSYTH STREET
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

September 2, 2003

Rules Review and Directives Branch
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Mail Stop T6-D59
 Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

7/17/03
 68 FR 42431
 (1)

Rules and Directives
 Branch

SEP 5 AM 9:42

RECEIVED

**RE: EPA Review and Comments on
 Draft Generic Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DGSEIS)
 License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 15
 Regarding Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
 CEQ No. 030322**

Dear Sir:

EPA Region 4 reviewed the Draft Generic Supplemental EIS (DGSEIS) pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102 (2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of this letter is to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with EPA's comments regarding potential impacts of the proposed renewal of the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station Operating License (OL).

South Carolina Electric and Gas Company submitted an application to renew the Operating License (OL) for the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station for an additional 20 years. The proposed action, (license renewal), would provide for continued operation and maintenance of existing facilities and transmission lines.

Based on the review of the DGSEIS, the project received a rating of "EC-1," meaning that some environmental concerns exist regarding aspects of the proposed project. Specifically, protecting the environment involves the continuing need for appropriate storage, and ultimate disposition, of radioactive wastes generated on-site.

The DGSEIS acknowledges that OL renewal of the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station will require continuing radiological monitoring of all plant effluents. Continuing to appropriately store spent fuel assemblies and radioactive wastes on-site is required, in order to prevent impacts. Ultimately, long-term radioactive waste disposition will require transportation of wastes to a permitted repository site. Further, the DGSEIS states that renewal of the OL would result in fewer environmental impacts than the feasible alternatives for generating power, and the NRC considers impacts of OL renewal to be small. Overall, the impacts as defined in the DGSEIS appear to be within acceptable limits.

Temp letter ADH-013

*E-EDS = ADH-03
 Add = G. Suber (9x5)*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document. We look forward to reviewing the Final GSEIS. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinz Mueller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
Office of Environmental Assessment