

January 12, 2009

Mr. George Taylor
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3, COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (SCE&G) acting for itself and as an agent for South Carolina Public Service Company (also referred to as Santee Cooper) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of two new nuclear power plants (Units 2 and 3) at its Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) site in Fairfield County, South Carolina. As part of the review of this COL application, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA).

SCE&G submitted its application for a COL, dated March 27, 2008, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The NRC staff accepted the application for docketing in a letter dated July 31, 2008. It is available through the web-based version of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The environmental report portion of the application is listed under accession number ML081300569. The VCSNS COL application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/summer.html>.

The VCSNS site is located on approximately 3,600 acres on a largely rural area, approximately 15 miles west of the county seat of Winnsboro and 26 miles northwest of Columbia, South Carolina on the Broad River. The VCSNS site currently has one operating pressurized light water reactor (Unit 1) that has the capacity to generate 966 megawatts of electricity. Unit 1 is located along the southern bank of the Monticello Reservoir. SCE&G plans to construct two new nuclear units adjacent to the existing site in the area that was generally used for laydown of construction materials and the source of borrow materials during the construction of Unit 1. Units 2 and 3 would be situated approximately one mile south-southwest of Unit 1, equidistant from both the Monticello and Parr Reservoirs.

The NRC staff is currently seeking information from consulting parties and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, the proposed action. Currently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates water use associated with the Parr Shoals Hydroelectric Project (Parr Project), which includes both the Monticello and Parr Reservoirs. Based on information in SCE&G's COL application to the NRC, the FERC license for the Parr Project limits withdrawal of water from the Monticello Reservoir to activities

associated with the operation of SCE&G's existing Unit 1. SCE&G's proposed Units 2 and 3 will utilize the Monticello Reservoir as a water source and the Parr Reservoir for reactor blowdown (effluent) discharge. It is the NRC staff's understanding that such use of water for the proposed action would require a FERC-approved license amendment. As a result, the NRC has identified FERC as an agency that has interest in the proposed action because of the likelihood that SCE&G will submit a license amendment request to FERC for the withdrawal of additional water from the Monticello Reservoir. Consequently, the NRC is soliciting any information, comments, or concerns you may have on the proposed action.

The NRC staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings. The first meeting will be held at the Fairfield Central High School, 836 U.S. Highway 321 Bypass S, Winnsboro, South Carolina 29180 on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., and will continue until approximately 10:00 p.m. The second meeting will be held at the McCrorey-Liston Elementary School, 1978 State Highway 215 South, Blair, South Carolina 29015 on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., with a repetition of the overview portions of the first meeting, and will continue until approximately 10:00 p.m. Each meeting will be preceded by an open house from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. In addition, during the week of March 09, 2009, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit to discuss with the applicant the detailed information that is the basis for the preparation of the Environmental Report, to tour the site and its environs, and to review documentation.

Please provide any information, comments, or concerns you feel are appropriate on the scope of the proposed action during the scoping comment period, which ends on March 06, 2009. Comments should be submitted either via mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or via e-mail to Summer.COLEIS@nrc.gov.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this COL application, please contact Ms. Patricia Vokoun, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3470 or via e-mail at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov. In her absence, please contact Mr. Paul Michalak at 301-415-7612 or via e-mail at Paul.Michalak@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory P. Hatchett, Acting Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-027 and 52-028

cc: See next page

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Gregory P. Hatchett, Acting Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-027 and 52-028

cc: See next page

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ADAMS Accession No: **ML083659305**

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DATE	12/31/2008	1/02/2008	12/31/2008	1 /07 /2009	1 / 12 /2009

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Memo to George Taylor from Gregory P. Hatchett dated January 12, 2009

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(Revised 09/15/2008)

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