April 15, 2010

Mr. David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE REVIEW OF THE COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION FOR VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

Dear Mr. Bernhart:

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 Authority (also referred to as Santee Cooper) for two combined licenses (COLs) to construct and operate two new nuclear power units at its Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) site in Fairfield County, South Carolina. As part of its review of the proposed actions, the NRC staff has prepared the enclosed draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and biological assessment (BA) to evaluate potential adverse effects from the construction and operation of two proposed new nuclear power units at the VCSNS site on the environment, including Federally protected species. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Charleston District, is a cooperating agency on the DEIS.

The enclosed BA initiates joint consultation by the NRC, USACE and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). This BA examines the potential impacts of the construction and operation of proposed VCSNS Units 2 and 3 on the shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in the proposed transmission-line corridors.

Please note that although the NRC and USACE are initiating a joint Section 7 consultation with NMFS, the NRC and USACE have different regulatory authorities. In the event that NMFS issues an Incidental Take Statement (ITS), please specify in the ITS which Terms and Conditions are imposed on which agency.

To fulfill consultation requirements as required by the ESA and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), please provide any information and comments on the enclosed DEIS and BA you consider appropriateby July 6, 2010. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or via e-mail to Summer.COLEIS@nrc.gov.

The NRC staff plans to hold two public meetings to discuss the analysis and results in the DEIS on Thursday, May 27, 2010, at the White Hall AME Church, 8594 State Highway 215 South, Jenkinsville, South Carolina. The first meeting will convene at 12:00 p.m. and will continue until 4:00 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 6:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. You and your staff are invited to attend.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Patricia Vokoun, Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-3470, or via e-mail at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ryan Whited, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-027 and 52-028

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML100840634 **NRO-002**

OFFICE	NRO/DSER/RAP2:PM	NRO/DSER/RAP2:LA	NRO/DSER/RENV:Bio	OGC	NRO/DSER/RAP2:BC
NAME	PVokoun**/RA/**	GHawkins**/RA/**	NKuntzleman**/RA/**	SPrice**/RA/**	RWhited**/RA/**
DATE	04/05/2010	03/29/2010	03/29/2010	04/09/2010	4/15/2010

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Letter to David Bernhart from Ryan Whited dated April 15, 2010.

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DISTRIBUTION:
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SKirkwood, OGC	RidsOgcMailCenter	Carl Berkowitz, PNNL (carl.berkowitz@pnl.gov)
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VC Summer Mailing List
cc:

Town of Jenkinsville
7880 State Highway 215 S
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Public Information Director
SCDHEC Nuclear Response
8911 Farrow Rd.
Columbia SC 29201

Ms. Jennifer Barnes
P.O. Box 7
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Ms. Jenifer Barns
13935 State Hwy. 215 South
Winnsboro SC 29180

Duke Bell
215 Hudson St.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Mr. Scott Boulware
9668 Newberry Rd.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Willie Boulware
221 Sandy Ln.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Ms. Mary Nguyen Bright
Public Information SCDHEC Nuclear Response
8911 Farrow Rd.
Columbia SC 29203

Mr. James Brown, Jr.
P.O. Drawer 1010
Newberry SC 29108

Mr. David Bernhart
Assist. Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Ms. Sterleith Green Caldwell
12849 State Hwy. 213 Mr. Morris Caldwell
4631 Greenbriar Rd.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Mr. Joe Chappell
19 Lakes End
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Ronald B. Clary, General Manager
New Nuclear Deployment
South Carolina Electric and Gas
1162 Highway 213
MC P40
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Mr. Tom Clements
SE Nuclear Campaign Coord.
Friends of the Earth
1112 Florence St.
Columbia SC 29201
Earline Coleman
2312 Coleman Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Richard L. Darden, PhD.
U.S. Army, Dept. of the Army
Corps of Engineers
69-A Hagood Ave.
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Ms. Lashasta Edmonds
208 Pearson Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Betty Ginyard
Town of Jenkinsville
366 Lakeview Dr.
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Mr. Gregrey D. Ginyard Sr.
Mayor
Town of Jenkinsville
366 Lakeview Dr.
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Mr. Lenny Goldman
937 Cole Trestle Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Isiah Gotson, Jr.
72 Young Gotson Ln.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Ms. Joan Green
12639 State Hwy. 213
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Mr. Clement Griffin
312 Strothers Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Robert Guild
314 Pallmall St.
Columbia SC 29201

Mr. Richard Hager
4537 Hwy. 215 S.
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Mr. Timothy N. Hall, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Rd., Ste. 200
Charleston, SC 29407

Mr. John Hartz
104 W. Hampton Way
Columbia SC 29229

Mr. Michell Hicks, Principal Chief
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

Mr. Simon Jacobs
843 John Brice Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Tangee B. Jacobs
843 John Brice Rd.
Blair SC 29015

LTC Jason A. Kirk
District Commander
U.S. Army, Dept. of the Army
Corps of Engineers
Charleston District
69-A Hagood Ave.
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

Mr. Ravenell Keller
2 Keller Ln.
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Mr. Richard Kizer
1602 Scarlet Oak Ct.
Moncks Corner SC 29461

Mr. Don Klima, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 803
Washington, DC 20004

Ms. Cynthia Lyles
458 Pearson Rd.
Blair SC 29105

Mr. Kamau Marcharia
County Council
P.O. Box 49
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Ms. Gladys Martin
P.O. Box 24
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Mr. Joseph McConnell
P.O. Box 21
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Virgil McConnell
3174 Shelton Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Annie McDaniel
2247 Kennedy Rd.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Ms. Laura McMaster, Director
Fairfield County Library
300 Washington St.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Carmell Murphy
1148 Longleaf Rd.
Ridgeway SC 29130

Mr. John Peoples
118 Indian Trail Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Ernestine M. Rabb
12471 State Hwy. 213
Jenkinsville SC 29065
Ms, Tawanda Richard
300 Kelly Ct.
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Chad 'Corntassel' Smith
Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Mr. Jeffrey Schaffer
399 Schaffer Ridge Ln.
Blair SC 29015

Willie J. Stevens
6432 Rd. 99
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Addie Suber
14804 Newberry Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Robert Green
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Mr. John Terry
15422 State Highway 34E
Ridge Way SC 29130

Ms. Sallie R. Thompson
12298 Newberry Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Sandra J. Threatt
SCDHEC Nuclear Response
SCDHEC BLWM WA&ER NREES
8911 Farrows Rd.
Columbia SC 29201

Mr. James Trapp
78 Lakeview Dr.
Jenkinsville SC 29065

Ms. Felicia Y. Trower
472 99 Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Vivianne Vejdani
South Carolina Department
of Natural Resources
Office of Environmental Programs
P.O. Box 167
Columbia, SC 29202

Mr. George Wickliffe, Chief
United Keetoowah Band
of Cherokee Indians
2450 S. Muskogee
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Mr. Michael William
2174 Smallstown Rd.
Winnsboro SC 29180

Ms. Caroline Dover Wilson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Rd.
Columbia, SC 29223-4905

Mr. Larry Wilson
7251 Rd. 99
Blair SC 29015

Ms. Jackie Workman
Western Fairfield
2176 Dave Cole Rd.
Blair SC 29015

Mr. Mark Caldwell
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast Region 4
176 Croghan Spur Rd., Ste. 200
Charleston, SC 29407-7558

Ms. Crystal Rippey
Industrial Wastewater Permitting
SCDHEC
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC

Email:
Apagua@SCANA.com (Al Pagua)
aphipps@heraldindependent.com (Andi Phipps)
bennettS2@bv.com (Steve A. Bennett)
brasweks@dhec.sc.gov (Karen Braswell)
brightmn@dhec.sc.gov (Mary Nguyen Bright)
rownrealtimber@aol.com (David Brown)
bwhitten@sdkc.com (Robert C. Whitten)
Cbell725@yahoo.com (Chandra Bell)
cgibbons@rawlemurdy.com (Claire Gibbons)
ckduncan712@gmail.com (Caroline Duncan)
clhendrix123@msn.com (Carrie L. Hendrix)
CNTA@BellSouth.net (Dr. Clint Wolfe)
dbecker@emd.sc.gov (Derrec Becker)
dcarlis@regstaff.sc.gov (Douglas Carlisle)
Dclary@Hybrideng.com (C. Douglas Clary Jr.)
Deborah42070@aol.com (Deborah Gunter)
disneypreciousred@yahoo.com (Carol C. Hill)
fairfieldmus@truvista.net (Pelham Lyles)
fbelser@regstaff.sc.gov (Florence P. Belser)
frankq@hursttech.com (Frank Quinn)
gandyrm@dhoc.sc.com (Mike Gandy)
gdgsr@bellsouth.net (Gregory D. Ginyard Sr.)
Gerald.rudolph@gmail.com (Gerald Rudolph)
grantg@sloancc.net (George Grant)
HFV@lawcountry.com (Hoyt Von Kaenel)
hlanier@mgcconsulting.com (Hope Lanier)
HollingJ@dnr.sc.gov (Julie Holling)
jbesley@sc.edu (John C. Beslet)
jcammon@constructiontrainingcenter.org (John Cammon)
jcincotta@fairfield.k12.sc.us (Jill Cincotta)
jeff@campschaffer.com (Jeff Schaffer)
jfantry@bellsouth.net (John J. Fantry Jr.)
jlandreth@scana.com (Jim Landreth)
jmgiles@scana.com (Julie Giles)
joe4solar@aol.com (Joe Wojcicki)
johnniewalker@scana.com (Johnnie Walker)
jonathan.gieselen@gmail.com (Jonathan Gieselen)
jscorbett@mindspring.com (Susan Corbett)
jthordahl@mgcconsulting.com (Jeff Thordahl)
juliebrendell@aol.com (Julie Brendell)
ken@agilstaff.com (Ken Carey)
leonard.goldman@comcast.net (Lenny Goldman)
llecastre@emd.sc.gov (Lindsay LeCastre)
marcharia@aol.com (Kamau Marcharia)
mcartin@regstaff.sc.gov (Michael Cartin)
mcdanielae@yahoo.com (Annie McDaniel)
mcriss@sc.rr.com (Michael P. Criss)
montnlt4life@yahoo.com (Lamont White)
mrmills@glennassociates.com (Michael Mills)
nvasuki@sdkc.com (N.T. Vasuki)
pamiekins@hotmail.com (Pamela Greenlaw)

paulnelda@gmail.com (Paul McCreery)
rthomas@scpowerteam.com (Ralph Thomas)
russ@mcecoop.com (Russ Dantzler)
sara.m.tansey@gmail.com (Sara Tansey)
shudson@regstaff.sc.gov (Shannon Hudson)
srudnicki@sc.rr.com (Steven Rudnicki)
Summer@scana.com (April R. Rice)
taber19690@msn.com (Taber Cook)
talktotangee@earthlink.net (Tangee B. Jacobs)
tharrison@fairfieldsc.com (Tiffany Harrison)
threatsj@dhec.sc.gov (Sandra J. Threatt)
tomclements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
tpowers@newberrycounty.net (Teresa Powers)
twknight@sc.edu (Travis W. Knight)
vloiselle@aol.com (Val Loiselle)

cc:

Ms. Michele Boyd
Legislative Director
Energy Program
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Stephen A. Byrne
Executive Vice President,
Generation & CNO
SCANA
Mail Code D303
220 Operation Way
Cayce, SC 29033

Chairman
Fairfield County Council
Drawer 60
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Mr. Thomas D. Gatlin
General Manager
Nuclear Plant Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
Post Office Box 88, Mail Code 300
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Ms. Sharon Bowyer Hudson
Office of Regulatory Staff
State of South Carolina
1401 Main Street
Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Ronald Kinney
South Carolina DHEC
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Ron Osborne
Director
South Caroline EMD
1100 Fish Hatchery Road
West Columbia, SC 29172

Mr. Henry Porter
Assistant Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land & Waste Management
Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Ms. Linda Sanders
Director
Allendale County EPA
P.O. Box 129
Allendale, SC 29810

Ms. Sandra Threatt
South Carolina DHEC
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. R. J. White
Nuclear Coordinator
S.C. Public Service Authority
c/o Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 88, Mail Code 802
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Ronald B. Clary
Vice President, New Nuclear Development
SCE&G
Mail Code P40
PO Box 88
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

COL SCE&G - VCSummer Mailing List

Email

amonroe@scana.com (Amy Monroe)
APAGLIA@Scana.com (Al Paglia)
APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)
arice@scana.com (April R. Rice)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
bmccall@santeecooper.com (Bill McCall, Jr.)
BrinkmCB@westinghouse.com (Charles Brinkman)
chris.maslak@ge.com (Chris Maslak)
CumminWE@Westinghouse.com (Edward W. Cummins)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
Derlinda.Bailey@chguernsey.com (Derinda Bailey)
dgriffin@scana.com (Donna S. Griffin)
fbelser@regstaff.sc.gov
gzinke@entergy.com (George Alan Zinke)
jarchie@scana.com (Jeffrey B. Archie)
jflitter@regstaff.sc.gov
jgutierrez@morganlewis.com (Jay M. Gutierrez)
jim.riccio@wdc.greenpeace.org (James Riccio)
JJNesrsta@cpsenergy.com (James J. Nesrsta)
John.O'Neill@pillsburylaw.com (John O'Neill)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
kjbrowne@santeecooper.com (Kenneth J. Browne)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
Marc.Brooks@dhs.gov (Marc Brooks)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
mark.beaumont@wsms.com (Mark Beaumont)
Mark.Crisp@chguernsey.com (Mark Crisp)
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
mike_moran@fpl.com (Mike Moran)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
paul.gaukler@pillsburylaw.com (Paul Gaukler)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pshastings@duke-energy.com (Peter Hastings)
rclary@scana.com (Ronald Clary)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
rwhite@scana.com (Robin White)

sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sandra.sloan@areva.com (Sandra Sloan)
sbyrne@scana.com (Stephen A. Byrne)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
shudson@regstaff.sc.gov (Sharon Hudson)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)
TomClements329@cs.com (Tom Clements)
Vanessa.quinn@dhs.gov (Vanessa Quinn)
vcsnrc@scana.com (NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Wanda.K.Marshall@dom.com (Wanda K. Marshall)

USACE - VCSummer Mailing List

Email

Chad Konickson chad.konickson@usace.army.mil
Charlie Crosby charles.crosby@usace.army.mil
Colt Bowles colton.bowles@usace.army.mil
Debra King debra.king@usace.army.mil
Di Haynes diresert.haynes@usace.army.mil
Gina Cooper gina.c.cooper@usace.army.mil
Les Parker les.l.parker@usace.army.mil
Lisa Hreha lisa.l.hreha@usace.army.mil
Brice McKoy peter.b.mckoy@usace.army.mil
Robin Socha robin.c.socha@usace.army.mil
Sharon Abbott sharon.j.abbott@usace.army.mil
Tommy Fennel tommy.e.fennel@usace.army.mil
Travis Hughes travis.g.hughes@usace.army.mil
Trish Miller trisha.miller@usace.army.mil
Amy Cappellino amy.e.cappellino@usace.army.mil
Ann Eaddy ann.w.eaddy@usace.army.mil
Chip Ridgeway chip.ridgeway@usace.army.mil
Christopher Mims christopher.d.mims@usace.army.mil
Courtney Bates courtney.m.bates@usace.army.mil
David Chamberlain david.chamberlain@usace.army.mil
Dean Herndon dean.herndon@usace.army.mil
Deborah Murphy deborah.murphy@usace.army.mil
Elizabeth Williams elizabeth.g.williams@usace.army.mil
Gina Cooper gina.cooper@usace.army.mil
Holland Youngman holland.j.youngman@usace.army.mil
Jessica Hooten jessica.d.hooten@usace.army.mil
Jim Struble jim.struble@usace.army.mil
Kristin Riegel kristin.b.riegel@usace.army.mil
Laura Boos laura.m.boos@usace.army.mil
Mary Green mary.h.green@usace.army.mil
Michael Patrick michael.r.patrick@usace.army.mil
Nathaniel Ball nathaniel.i.ball@usace.army.mil
Paul Hinchcliff paul.f.hinchcliff@usace.army.mil
Robert Huff robert.c.huff@usace.army.mil
Sharon Abbott sharon.j.abbott@usace.army.mil
Stanard Johnson stanard.j.johnson@usace.army.mil
Stephanie McCary stephanie.d.mccary@usace.army.mil
Stephen Brumagin stephen.a.brumagin@usace.army.mil
Tony Hardee tony.b.hardee@usace.army.mil
Tracy Dotolo tracy.c.dotolo@usace.army.mil
Wiley Bracey wiley.c.bracey@usace.army.mil