

September 25, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Biweekly Notice Coordinator

FROM: Denise McGovern, Project Manager */RA Ravi Joshi for:/*
Licensing Branch 4 (LB4)
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION IN BIWEEKLY FR NOTICE - NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND COMBINED LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING (TAC NO. RQ0300)

South Carolina Electric & Gas Docket Nos.: 52-027 and 52-028, Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Units 2 and 3, Fairfield County, South Carolina

Date of amendment request: August 29, 2012

Description of amendment request: The proposed change would amend Combined License Nos.: NPF-93 and NPF-94 for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Units 2 and 3, respectively, by adding four non-Class 1E containment electrical penetration assemblies (EPAs). Containment EPAs are a passive extension of containment which provide the passage of the electric conductors through a single aperture in the nuclear containment structure, while providing a pressure barrier between the inside and the outside of the containment structure.

Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination: As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. Does the proposed amendment involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

Response: No

The additional containment EPAs are a passive extension of containment and provide a pathway for communication [sic, passage] of non-Class 1E electrical signals [sic, conductors] between the Auxiliary Building and Containment. The proposed containment electrical penetration assemblies are similar in form, fit and function to the current non-Class 1E containment electrical penetration assemblies. The maximum allowable leakage rate allowed by Technical Specifications is also unchanged. The new EPAs will meet the same design function as current EPAs, therefore, the additional penetrations do not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the proposed amendment create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No

The proposed containment electrical penetration assemblies are similar in form, fit, and function to the current non-Class 1E containment electrical penetration assemblies. The new EPAs will meet the same design function as current EPAs. Because the new EPAs are virtually identical in design and function to the current EPAs, no new type of failure modes exist. Therefore, the proposed change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident.

3. Does the proposed amendment involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No

The proposed containment electrical penetration assemblies are similar in form, fit and function to the current non-Class 1E containment electrical penetration assemblies. The additional containment electrical penetration assemblies are an engineered passive extension of containment, and, therefore, do not affect containment or its ability to perform its design function. The addition of the new EPAs does not exceed or alter a design basis or safety limit and, therefore, does not significantly reduce the margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

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Attorney for licensee: Ms. Kathryn M. Sutton, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLC, 1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004-2514

NRC Branch Chief: Mark E. Tonacci

M. Tonacci

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NRC Branch Chief: Mark E. Tonacci

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