

October 18, 2012

Mr. Ronald B. Clary, Vice President
New Nuclear Deployment
MC P40
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
P.O. Box 88
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC AND GAS
COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT AND EXEMPTION FOR
THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2 AND 3: CHANGES TO
TIER 1 TABLE 3.3-1, DEFINITION OF WALL THICKNESSES (LAR 12-02)

Dear Mr. Clary:

By letter dated September 26, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12275A274), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) submitted a request for a license amendment and an exemption for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Units 2 and 3. The proposed license amendment request would depart from the plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 1 material included in Appendix C of each of the VCSNS Units 2 and 3 combined licenses by improving the translation of Tier 2 information into Table 3.3-1 "Definition of Wall Thicknesses for Nuclear Island Buildings, Turbine Building, and Annex Building" for technical consistency, clarity, and completeness.

SCE&G has also requested an exemption from the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, Appendix D, Section III.B, "Design Certification Rule for the AP1000 Design, Scope and Contents," to allow a departure from the elements of the certification information in Tier 1 of the generic DCD.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this license amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of the 10 CFR, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

R. Clary

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The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6185 or anthony.minarik@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony Minarik, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No(s): 52-027
52-028

cc: See next page

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

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COL SCE&G – VC Summer Mailing List
cc:

(Revised 09/26/2012)

Mr. Jeffrey B. Archie
Sr. Vice President, Nuclear Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
MC D304
220 Operation Way
Cayce, SC 29033-3172

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

Chairman
Fairfield County Council
Drawer 60
Winnsboro, SC 29180

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

Mr. George McKinney
Director
South Carolina EMD
1100 Fish Hatchery Road
West Columbia, SC 29172

Ms. Gidget Stanley-Banks
Director
Allendale County EPA
426 Mullberry Street
Allendale, SC 29810

COL SCE&G – VC Summer Mailing List

Email

amonroe@scana.com (Amy Monroe)
APAGLIA@Scana.com (Al Paglia)
APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)
April.Rice@scana.com (April Rice)
arice@scana.com (April R. Rice)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
bedforbj@westinghouse.com (Brian Bedford)
Bill.Jacobs@gdsassociates.com (Bill Jacobs)
bmccall@santeecooper.com (Bill McCall, Jr.)
CumminWE@Westinghouse.com (Edward W. Cummins)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
dgriffin@scana.com (Donna S. Griffin)
ed.burns@earthlink.net (Ed Burns)
fbelser@regstaff.sc.gov
gzinke@entergy.com (George Alan Zinke)
jarchie@scana.com (Jeffrey B. Archie)
jenkinse@dhec.sc.gov (Susan Jenkins)
jflitter@regstaff.sc.gov
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
kasslc@westinghouse.com (Leslie Kass)
kinneyrw@dhec.sc.gov (Ronald Kinney)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
lchandler@morganlewis.com (Lawrence J. Chandler)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
mark.beaumont@wsms.com (Mark Beaumont)
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)
mcintyba@westinghouse.com (Brian McIntyre)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
MSF@nei.org (Marvin Fertel)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
Nuclaw@mindspring.com (Robert Temple)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
pbessette@morganlewis.com (Paul Bessette)
porterhj@dhec.sc.gov (Henry Porter)
rclary@scana.com (Ronald Clary)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
Ronald.Jones@scana.com (Ronald Jones)
rwhite@scana.com (Robin White)
sabinski@suddenlink.net (Steve A. Bennett)
sbyrne@scana.com (Stephen A. Byrne)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)

COL SCE&G – VC Summer Mailing List

shudson@regstaff.sc.gov (Shannon Hudson)
stephan.moen@ge.com (Stephan Moen)
TGATLIN@scana.com (Thomas Gatlin)
threatsj@dhec.sc.gov (Sandra Threatt)
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)
William.Cherry@scana.com (William Cherry)
wmcherry@santeecooper.com (Marion Cherry)