September 17, 2015

Mr. Ronald A. Jones, Vice President
New Nuclear Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
14368 State Highway 213
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT (LAR 15-08) FOR THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2 AND 3: SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MECHANICAL COUPLER WELD ACCEPTABILITY (TAC NO. RQ0452)

Dear Mr. Jones:

By letter dated August 24, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML15236A344), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) submitted a license amendment request for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS), Units 2 and 3 (Combined License (COL) Nos. NPF-93 and NPF-94). SCE&G proposes to depart from Tier 2* and associated Tier 2 information in the VCSNS Units 2 and 3 Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) (which includes the plant specific Design Control Document Tier 2 information) to demonstrate that the mechanical weldable couplers to structural steel weld capacity required by the American Concrete Institute (ACI) 349-01 is satisfied using the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) N690-1994 analysis and testing provisions.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these requests. 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 reviews. 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 Title 10 of the *Code of Federal* Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.90, an application for an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. 10 CFR Section 52.79 addresses content of technical information that is required for COL application Final Safety Analysis Reports. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

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 reviews 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) 415-2809 or Paul.Kallan@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul Kallan, Senior 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

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Sincerely,

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