

September 28, 2015

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

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT REQUEST (PAR 15-08), "SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MECHANICAL COUPLER WELD ACCEPTABILITY" FOR THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. RQ0452)

Dear Mr. Jones:

By letter dated September 23, 2015, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) submitted a Preliminary Amendment Request (PAR) 15-08 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML15266A513) notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that absent NRC objection, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of License Amendment Request (LAR) 15-08, dated August 24, 2015, as supplemented on September 23, 2015 (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML15236A344 and ML15266A459, respectively), SCE&G will proceed with construction of Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Unit 2 seismic Category I and II structures containing mechanical couplers welded to structural steel utilizing combined partial joint penetration weld with fillet weld reinforcement with fillet welds satisfying the minimum size requirements for C2/C3J couplers established by analyses and testing consistent with requested changes in LAR 15-08.

As required by License Condition 2.D.(1) the NRC has received LAR 15-08, as supplemented and referenced in PAR 15-08. The staff has evaluated the license amendment documentation supporting LAR 15-08 and has determined that there is sufficient information to accept LAR 15-08 for detailed technical review (ADAMS Accession Number ML15239B230).

The NRC staff has determined that PAR 15-08 contained sufficient information on the impact of the proposed plant change on associated Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria, which is no impact. In addition, the NRC staff reviewed the scope of PAR 15-08 and found it to be consistent with the requested changes from the current licensing basis as delineated in LAR 15-08, as supplemented. Therefore, the NRC has no objection to SCE&G proceeding with the proposed plant changes identified in PAR 15-08, including concrete fill in Unit 2 structural module CA20, and the installation, including Shield Building internal and external wall panels from Elevation 34.6 – 40.1 m (113'6" – 131'6"), including the panel couplers, pending the outcome of the NRC's detailed technical review of LAR 15-08, as supplemented. SCE&G acknowledges that if LAR 15-08 is denied, SCE&G will return the plant to its current licensing basis as required by License Condition 2.D.(1)(b).

R. Jones

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Lead Project Manager, Billy Gleaves, at 301-415-5848 or via e-mail at [Bill.Gleaves@nrc.gov](mailto:Bill.Gleaves@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Francis M. Akstulewicz, Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-027

cc: See next page

R. Jones

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the Lead Project Manager, Billy Gleaves, at 301-415-5848 or via e-mail at Bill.Gleaves@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Francis M. Akstulewicz, Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-027

cc: See next page

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(Revised 09/22/2015)

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