December 2, 2016

Mr. Ronald A. Jones, Vice President
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
New Nuclear Deployment
P.O. Box 88
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT AND EXEMPTION (LAR 16-06) FOR THE VIRGIL C SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2 AND 3: PASSIVE CORE COOLING SYSTEM CONDENSATE RETURN (CAC NO. RG3015)

Dear Mr. Jones:

By letter dated November 18, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16323A335), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G/licensee) submitted a request for a license amendment and exemption (LAR 16-06) for the Combined License (COL) Numbers NPF-93 and NPF-94, for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station Units 2 and 3, respectively. The requested amendment proposes to depart from approved AP1000 Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information as incorporated into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (which includes the plant-specific DCD Tier 2 information) and involves changes to COL Appendix C information and to the corresponding plant-specific Tier 1 information. Specifically, the proposed amendment would revise the licensing basis information to reflect an increase in the efficiency of the return of condensate utilized by the passive core cooling system to the in-containment refueling water storage tank to support the capability for long-term cooling.

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 the LAR. 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 10 CFR 50.90, an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, and follow as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 52.79 of the 10 CFR addresses the 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.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application against the regulatory requirements and has concluded that it provides sufficient technical detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed changes 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) 415-3249 or Ruth.Reyes@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ruth Reyes, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-027
52-028

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Ruth Reyes, Project Manager
Licensing Branch 4
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-027
52-028

cc: See next page

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