

February 8, 2017

Mr. Ronald A. Jones  
Vice President New Nuclear Operations  
South Carolina Electric and Gas Company  
South Carolina Public Service  
New Nuclear Deployment  
P.O. Box 88  
Jenkinsville, South Carolina 29065

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS  
COMPANY'S LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE VIRGIL C.  
SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2 AND 3: NONDESTRUCTIVE  
EXAMINATION FOR WELDS OF COUPLERS TO CARBON STEEL  
EMBEDMENT PLATES

Dear Mr. Jones:

By letter dated October 27, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Number ML16301A385), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and the South Carolina Public Service Company submitted a license amendment request for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Units 2 and 3. The proposed license amendment requests an amendment that requires changes to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) in the form of departures from the incorporated plant-specific Design Control Document (DCD) Tier 2 information and a Combined License Condition which references one of the proposed changes.

The proposed departure consists of changes to Tier 2\* information in the UFSAR (which includes the plant-specific DCD information) to clarify how the quality and strength of a specific set of couplers welded to Carbon Steel embedment plates, already installed and embedded in concrete, is demonstrated through visual examination, static tension testing, and magnetic particle examination, in lieu of the nondestructive examination requirements of American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) N690.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license must fully describe the changes requested, 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.

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 Senior Project Manager, Peter Hearn, at (301) 415-1189 or [Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov](mailto:Peter.Hearn@NRC.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Peter Hearn, 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

ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY'S LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 2 AND 3: NONDESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION FOR WELDS OF COUPLERS TO CARBON STEEL EMBEDMENT PLATES DATED FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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**NRO-008**

OFFICE	DNRL/LB4:LA	DNRL/LB4: PM	DNRL/LB4:BC
NAME	RButler	PHearn	JDixon-Herrity
DATE	2/3/17	2/8/17	2/8/17

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(Revised 10/03/2016)

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