



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 139 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-12

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY

VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-395

1.0 INTRODUCTION

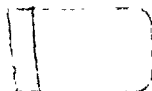
By application dated February 9, 1998, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G, the licensee) requested changes to the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Technical Specifications (TS). The proposed changes would remove emergency diesel generator (EDG) accelerated testing requirements (TS 3/4.8.1, Table 4.8-1), and eliminate special reporting requirements (TS Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.3) in accordance with NRC Generic Letter (GL) 94-01, "Removal of Accelerated Testing and Special Reporting Requirements for Emergency Diesel Generators."

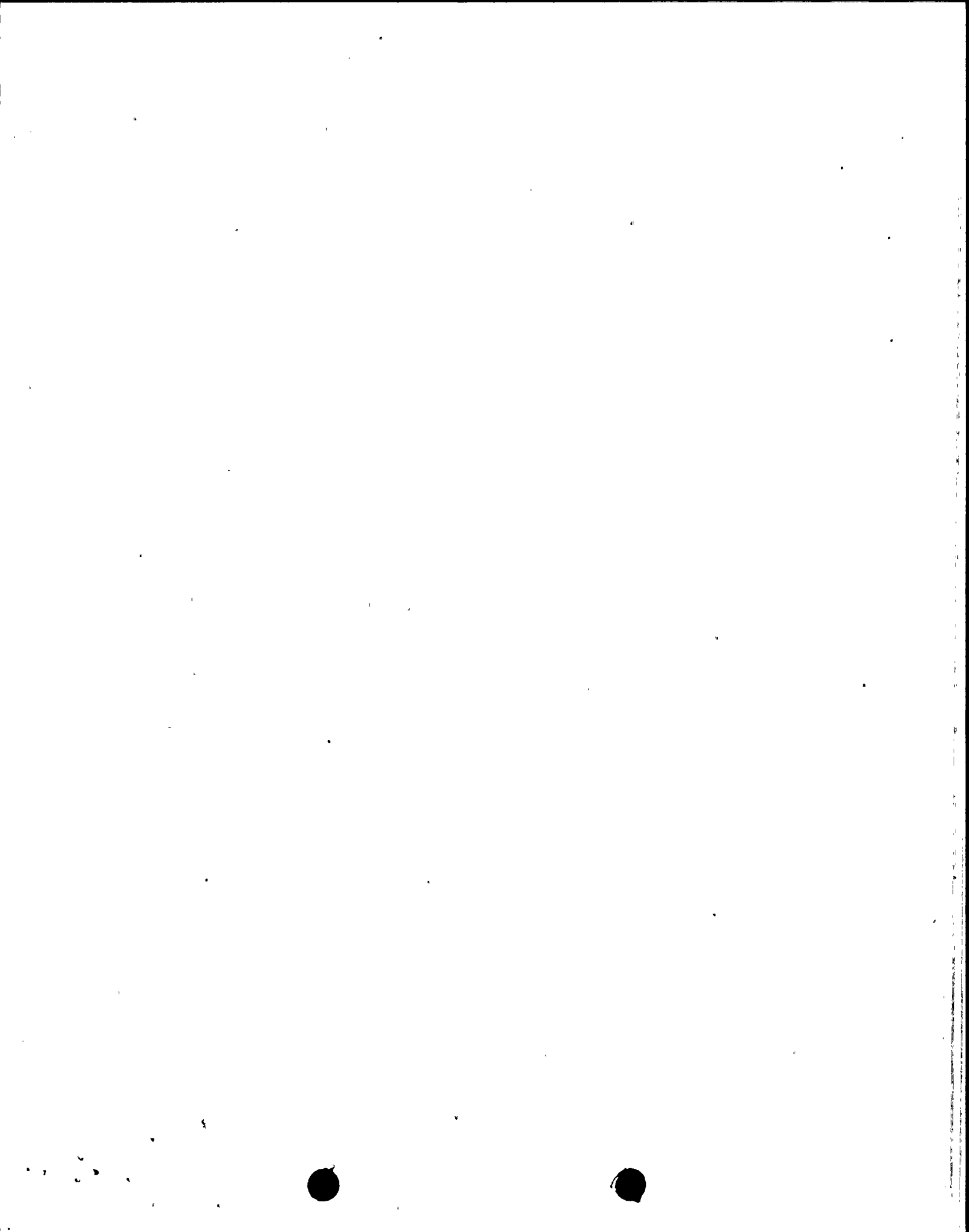
2.0 EVALUATION

The NRC issued GL 94-01 on May 31, 1994, in response to the Commission decision on SECY-93-044, "Resolution of Generic Safety Issue B-56, Diesel Generator Reliability." The GL advised licensees that they could request a license amendment to remove EDG accelerated testing and special reporting requirements from plant TS. However, the GL indicated that licensees must have a maintenance program for monitoring and maintaining EDG performance in order to remove the TS. The GL specified that the licensee's maintenance program must meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65 and Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.160, Revision 2 "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." Implementing 10 CFR 50.65 and RG 1.160, Revision 2 provisions eliminates unnecessary EDG testing, and improves overall EDG reliability. These provisions include performing detailed root cause analysis of individual EDG failures, taking effective corrective actions in response to individual EDG failures, and implementing EDG preventive maintenance consistent with 10 CFR 50.65.

In their February 9, 1998, submittal, SCE&G proposed to change the current VCSNS TS to remove EDG accelerated testing and special reporting requirements as follows:

- change Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.8.1.1.2.a to specify EDG testing at least once every 31 days





These proposed changes are consistent with GL 94-01 guidance. The licensee's February 9, 1998, letter indicates that the Summer plant maintenance program for monitoring and maintaining EDG performance is consistent with 10 CFR 50.65 and RG 1.160, Revision 2. Accordingly, we find the proposed changes to be acceptable. There is no need to have TS to monitor and maintain EDG performance since 10 CFR 50.65 already requires this.

The licensee also proposes to remove EDG failure reporting requirements (specified in TS 4.8.1.1.3 "Reports"). This is consistent with GL 94-01 guidance, and is acceptable. Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50.72 "Immediate Notification Requirements for Operating Nuclear Power Reactors," and Part 50.73 "Licensee Event Report System" require SCE&G to notify the NRC about EDG performance problems.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the State of South Carolina official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (63 FR 9614). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Date: March 30, 1998

