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

Docket No. 50-395

OCT 23 1980

Mr. T. C. Nichols, Jr.
Vic. President & Group Executive
Nuclear Operations
South Carolina Electric & Gas Company
P. O. Box 764
Columbia, South Carolina 29281

Dear Mr. Nichols:

SUBJECT: AUGMENTED LOW-POWER STARTUP TEST PROGRAM - VIRGIL C. SUMMER
NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

One result of the Three Mile Island accident studies is the requirement for operating license applicants to perform an augmented low-power startup-test program to provide operator training and design verification regarding natural circulation conditions. Refer to NUREG-0694, items I.C.7 (Fuel load requirement) and I.G.1 (Fuel load and full power requirement). The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposed a program consisting of ten tests for the Sequoyah facility. There has been some uncertainty as to which of these tests should be performed by each of the other OL applicants at their facilities. It is the NRC staff's position that each OL applicant should perform tests similar to the tests proposed by TVA for Sequoyah prior to exceeding five percent of rated thermal power except for Test 8, "Establishment of Natural Circulation From Stagnant Conditions," and Test 9B, "Boron Mixing and Cooldown."

Test 8 may be deleted if training for each operator is provided. Training should include conducting a simulation of the event on a simulator that has been updated as necessary using the Westinghouse and TVA test data collected at Sequoyah.

Test 9B must be performed. However, it may be modified and deferred until completion of the power ascension program and manufacturer's acceptance test, provided that it is performed immediately following completion of the manufacturer's acceptance test. Chapter 14 of your FSAR should be modified as appropriate to reflect this condition if you elect deferral.

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OCT 23 1980

The only other exceptions to the Sequoyah test program that will be considered will be those resulting from unique, plant specific differences that could cause one or more of the tests performed at Sequoyah to be unsafe if performed on another plant. Technical justification for such exceptions, if any, should be provided no later than October 31, 1980, to the NRC staff for review and approval.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Tedesco
Assistant Director for Licensing
Division of Licensing

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