

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
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T. C. NICHOLS, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT AND GROUP EXECUTIVE
NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

January 23, 1981

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II, Suite 3100
101 Marietta Street, N. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Subject: Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50/395
Potential Significant Deficiency
Penetration Assemblies

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

On 12/24/80, Mr. John Rausch of NRC Region II was informed by telephone of a potential significant deficiency concerning penetration assemblies.

Two separate concerns were noted. The first involved the omission, by the construction forces, of a one inch layer of insulation which was required to be placed around several of the process pipes, as they each pass through the bellows portion of the penetration assemblies. The function of the insulation is to reduce heat input to the bellows, thus maintaining its service life. This condition has been reviewed by our engineering people who have concluded that the bellows area constitutes a secondary seal for the entire penetration assembly. A postulated failure of the bellows would have no effect on containment integrity which is provided by the primary seal, which would not be affected by failure of the bellows.

Based on the above, it has been determined that the omission of the insulation in the bellows would not adversely affect the safety of operations of the plant and hence does not constitute a significant deficiency under 10CFR50.55(e).

The second concern involves mislocation of a centering sleeve on the process piping whose function is to properly distribute piping loads to the penetration assembly. This condition is presently under investigation by our engineering people and a further report will be provided as soon as available.

This is considered an interim report on this item. If there are any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

T. C. Nichols, Jr.

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