

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY

(Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station,
Unit No. 1)

Docket No. 50-395

EXEMPTION

I.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and South Carolina Public Service Authority (the licensees), are the holders of Facility Operating License No. NPF-12, which authorizes operation of the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit No. 1. The license provides, among other things, that the licensees are subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a pressurized water reactor at the licensees' site located in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

II.

By letter dated November 9, 1989 the licensees requested an exemption under 10 CFR 55.11 from 10 CFR 55.59(a) in order to extend the V. C. Summer Nuclear Station annual requalification examination from March 1990 to May 1990 and the end of the 24 month requalification program cycle from March 1991 to May 1991. Currently the annual requalification testing is required by March 1990 and the 24 month requalification program cycle ends in March 1991. The exemption was requested to align the Summer Station with the new NRC

national examination schedule. Generic Letter 89-03, "Operator Licensing National Examination Schedule" provided an examination schedule for all licensees to equalize NRC examiners workload due to limited NRC resources. A November and May examination schedule was established for Summer. This one-time exemption will result in a permanent adjustment to the 24 month requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination.

III

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part [10 CFR Part 55], as it determines are authorized by law, and will not endanger life or property and are otherwise in the public interest."

The proposed exemption would align the Summer requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination with the NRC national examination schedule. This exemption will not increase the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological release will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect the quantity of radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant increase in occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, that an exemption as described in Section III is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the following exemption:

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and South Carolina Public Service Authority are exempt from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a) for a period of March 1990 to May 1990 with respect to the annual requalification examination and for a period of March 1991 to May 1991 with respect to the 24 month requalification program.

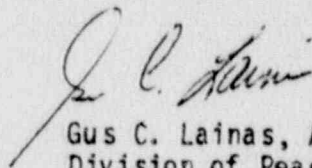
Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32 the Commission determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact (55 FR 6849).

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensees' request dated November 9, 1989, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Fairfield County Library, Garden and Washington Streets, Winnsboro, South Carolina 29180.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 27th day of February, 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Gus C. Lainas, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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