

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	
SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY)	Docket No. 50-395
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY)	
)	
(Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station))	

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 the operation of Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station (the facility) at reactor power levels not in excess of 139 megawatts thermal (5% of rated power). The facility consists of a Westinghouse Electric Corporation designed pressurized water reactor (PWR) located at the licensees' site in Fairfield County, South Carolina.

The license is subject to all rules and regulations of the Commission.

II.

10 CFR 50.54(q) requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards of §50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.1.b of Appendix E requires each licensee to conduct a full-scale emergency preparedness exercise for each site at which a power reactor is located for which the first operating license for that site is issued after July 13, 1982, within one year before the issuance of the first

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operating license for full power, and prior to operation above 5% of rated power of the first reactor which will enable each State and local government within the plume exposure pathway emergency planning zone and each State within the ingestion pathway emergency planning zone to participate.

In letters dated September 23 and 29, 1982 South Carolina Electric & Gas Company provided justification for and requested an exemption, in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR §50.12(a) and §50.47(c), from literal compliance with one requirement of Section IV.F.1.b of Appendix E to Part 50. That section provides that a full-scale exercise shall be conducted.

Justification for the request is based on the following:

- (1) On May 1, 1981 the plant operator, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, State, local and federal officials engaged in a full-scale emergency exercise for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station. That exercise resulted in favorable findings by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the NRC. As a result of that exercise, the State and four county government plans relative to the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station were approved by FEMA and the NRC on November 13, 1981.
- (2) On January 10, 1982, a full, system-wide test of the Emergency Notification System (sirens) for Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station was conducted. All four counties and the State emergency planning organization participated in the test.
- (3) On March 10 and 11, 1982, a full-scale emergency exercise was conducted

for Duke Power Company's Ucondee Nuclear Station which is also located

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in South Carolina. The State was a principal participant in the Oconee exercise. In addition, the emergency preparedness directors of three of the four counties involved in the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station emergency planning effort participated in the Oconee exercise as observers (critics) for the county emergency agencies with off-site responsibilities around Oconee.

- (4) On April 21, 1982, a medical drill was conducted for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station. This drill involved county emergency medical services and Richland Memorial Hospital, the primary medical support facility for radiation emergencies at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station.

- (5) On May 4, 1982, a fire drill for the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station was conducted involving the county volunteer fire departments as well as Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station fire prevention and control personnel.

- (6) On May 5, 1982, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company conducted an annual emergency exercise at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station. Although this was not a full-scale exercise in that it did not involve full State and local government participation, it did exercise key portions of the emergency plans fully, including checks of communication links with the State and the four involved counties, and a full test of the emergency notification system, including both the siren system and the emergency broadcasting system.

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(7) South Carolina Electric & Gas Company stated that it is prepared to conduct a limited emergency exercise, similar to that conducted on May 5, 1982, but with full local government participation and partial State participation as early as March 1983, if that were necessary to demonstrate adequate emergency preparedness.

In consideration of the exercise and drills conducted by South Carolina Electric & Gas Company and the full-scale exercises participated in by the State in 1981 and 1982, we find that granting an exemption to the exercise, identified above, will not adversely effect the overall state of emergency preparedness at Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station. The staff therefore concludes that the licensees' request for an exemption should be granted provided that, as agreed upon by the licensees, not later than March 31, 1983 the licensees conduct a limited emergency exercise, similar to that conducted on May 5, 1982, but with full local government participation and partial state participation.

III.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the exemption requested by the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company letters of September 23 and 29, 1982, as discussed above, is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. The requested exemption is hereby granted, modified and conditioned as follows:

The licensees shall conduct a limited emergency exercise, similar to that conducted on May 5, 1982, but with full local government partici-

pation and partial State participation not later than March 31, 1983.

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The Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Robert A. Purple, Acting Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland,
this 23 day of November 1982.

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SURNAME	WK.../Yg	MRushbrook	JYoungblood	MYoung	FPagano	TNovak	DEisenhut
DATE	10/29/82	10/29/82	10/1/82	11/1/82	11/2/82	12/82	11/2/82

no legal objection with minor comments
Telephone Conference D. ... to W. Kane 11/2/82

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DISTRIBUTION FOR ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO SECTION IV.F.1.b OF APPENDIX E TO 10
CFR PART 50 - VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION

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NRC PDR
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LB#1 Rdg.
W. Kane
M. Rushbrook
Attorney, OELD
D. Eisenhut/R. Purple
J. Rutberg, OELD
A. Toalston, AIG
E. Jordan, DEQA:IE
J. Taylor, DRP:IE
L. Harman, IE File (2)
J. Souder
W. Miller
I. Dinitz
W. Jones, OA (1)
T. Barnhart, (4)
B. P. Cotter, ASLBP
A. Rosenthal, ASLAP
ACRS (16)
F. Pagano, IE