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March 6, 1995 Refer to: RC-95-0058

Document Control Desk U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. Stephen Dembek

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PDR

Gentlemen:

Subject: VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION (VCSNS) DOCKET NO. 50/395 OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-12 SEISMIC NETWORK DISCONTINUATION

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.90, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G), acting for itself and as agent for South Carolina Public Service Authority, hereby requests an amendment to the Virgil C Summer Nuclear Station (VCSNS) Operating License (OL). The purpose of this change is to request the discontinuation of the seismic monitoring network around the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, on the basis that the minimum requirements of Operating License Condition 2.C (24) have been satisfied. This License Condition required SCE&G to maintain responsibility for a seismic monitoring program as discussed in Section 2.5.3 of the NRC Safety Evaluation Report [NUREG-0717] until a request is made by the Licensee and approved by the NRC Staff for reduction or elimination of the program.

The SCE&G seismic monitoring network was originally installed in 1977 (prior to the impoundment of Monticello Reservoir) as required by the NRC in a Safety Evaluation performed in 1974. Referring to attached Figure 1, the seismic network is currently composed of five (5) seismometers identified as Sites MR-01, 02, 05, 07, 10. The seismic network has been re-configured several times during its operation with a varying number of instruments deployed. Station JSC was installed by the United States Geological Survey in 1973 as part of the South Carolina Seismic Network (SCSN). Station JSC was used from 1974-77 to identify the background natural seismic activity of the area, which was determined to be on the order of one event every six days prior to the impoundment of Monticello Reservoir.

Since 1977, SCE&G has used the seismic network to record earthquake activity resulting from Reservoir Induced Seismicity (RIS) and other natural events. SCE&G currently funds the University of South Carolina to maintain, operate and analyze data from the network in order to provide reports to the NRC on a quarterly basis. As shown by these reports and Figure 2, after the peak RIS activity of 1978-80, data from the network has shown a steady decline of overall seismicity (including the number of events of magnitude 2.0 and larger), with the exception of a slight increase during 1985.

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The seismic activity for the past two years has now been less than the preimpoundment background levels of 1974-77. On this basis, SCE&G proposes to continue the seismic network until the end of the first quarter, 1995, after which time, monitoring and reporting on a quarterly basis will be discontinued.

It is requested that the NRC Staff review this proposal and advise of its acceptability by May 24, 1995, in order to allow SCE&G time to make arrangements for discontinuation with the involved parties. Due to the small magnitudes (< 3.0) of the earthquakes recorded over the past 17 years and the lack of safety significance of these small events, SCE&G no longer believes that the burden and costs of this seismic monitoring and reporting are justified.

This proposed OL change has been reviewed and approved by both the Plant Safety Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Review Committee.

This request replaces the previous request for seismic network discontinuation dated February 21, 1995 (Refer to: RC-95-0046), due to the omission of an oath or affirmation statement as required by 10 CFR 50.30(b).

I declare that these statements set forth herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bob Whorton at (803) 345-4725 or Mr. Michael J. Zaccone at (803) 345-4328.

Very truly yours,

Garvs

MJZ/GJT/nkk Attachments (3)

c: O. W. Dixon R. R. Mahan (w/o figures) R. J. White S. D. Ebneter S. Dembek S. F. Fipps NRC Resident Inspector J. B. Knotts Jr. J. W. Flitter NSRC Central File System RTS (TSP 940005) File (813.20)

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Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station Docket No. 50/395 Operating Licensing Condition 2.C(24) 10 CFR 50.92 Evaluation

## No Significant Hazards Determination

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) has reviewed this request and determined that:

- The proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated since the seismic monitoring network provides no direct input for operator action to control the plant. This network only functions to provide an estimate of the magnitude and location of an earthquake.
- The proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated since the seismic monitoring network serves to record an earthquake with no direct input for operator action. Removal of the network will have no affect on the design or operation of the plant.
- The proposed amendment does not involve a significant reduction in the margin of safety since the microseismic network does not control any safety functions of the plant nor provide any annunciation for operator action to control the plant.

Based on the above reasoning, SCE&G has determined that the proposed amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

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## Monticello Reservoir Seismic Network

Figure 1 Location of Monticello Reservoir seismic stations.

