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*** SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION *** UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-00.

May 30, 1997

Mr. Gary J. Taylor Vice President Nuclear Operations South Carolina Electric & Gas Company P. O. Box 88, Mail Code 800 Jenkinsville, SC 29065

SUBJECT:

VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 - OPERATIONAL

SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION (TAC NO. M97822)

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This letter conveys the results and conclusions of the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) conducted by the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station, Unit 1, facility from March 3 through March 6, 1997.

One purpose of the OSRE program is to evaluate a licensee's ability to respond in a contingency to an external threat by focusing on the interactions between operations and security in establishing priorities for protection of equipment and on the defensive strategies used. The OSRE also includes a safety/safeguards interface review to assure that safeguards measures do not adversely affect safe operation of the facility.

The OSRE conclusions are documented in the enclosed report. This enclosure, which contains safeguards information of a type specified in 10 CFR 73.21, will not be placed in the Public Document Room, and must be protected against unauthorized disclosure.

The drills, exercises, and demonstrations observed by the team and the results of interviews conducted by the team indicated that, overall, the security force demonstrated an effective contingency response capability. One strength of the security program and its interaction with plant operations was noted. The team also noted the high quality

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and extent of operations involvement in the planning and exercising of the contingency response capability. The team also concluded that effective provisions were in place to assure that safeguards measures did not adversely affect the safe operation of the facility.

The enclosed report does not convey any new regulatory requirement. Its findings have been considered with respect to your ability to meet the general performance objective and requirements of 10 CFR 73.55(a).

This letter affects one respondent and, therefore, is not subject to the Office of Management and Budget review under Public Law 96-511.

If you have questions concerning this evaluation, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

> Sincerely, Original signed by LeMoine J. Cunningham Chief Safequards Branch Division of Reactor Program Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-395

Enclosure: Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation

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