



South Carolina Electric & Gas Company  
P.O. Box 764  
Columbia, SC 29218  
(803) 748-3513

Dan A. Nauman  
Vice President  
Nuclear Operations

February 16, 1988

Mr. Stephen C. Thomas  
NPDES Permits Section  
South Carolina Department of Health and  
Environmental Control  
Division of Water Quality Assessment  
and Enforcement  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

SUBJECT: Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station  
NPDES Permit No. SC0030856  
Discharge Noncompliance

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This letter is being submitted as a written follow-up to the telephone notification of February 8, 1988, that pH at the Plant Surge Basin, Outfall 6B, had exceeded the permitted maximum of 9.0. Samples taken on February 8, 1988, showed pH values of 9.25, 9.33, and 9.49 at 0750, 0800 and 1500 hours, respectively.

An investigation was conducted with the following items noted:

- A) Flow through Outfall 6B was at a minimum due to reduced system leakage which contributed to increased stagnation of the Plant Surge Basin.
- B) The pH increased through the day and decreased overnight.

Results of the investigation are inconclusive at this time but seem consistent with pH problems due to the contributing effects of algae. The pH may be brought under control with maximum flow through the outfall but this is not conducive to normal operations and maintenance, i.e., increased wear on system components, pumps, etc.

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) has been working with the Industrial and Agricultural Wastewater Division at SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to gain approval for the use of algicides as recommended by the SC Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission. Pending the approval to use algicides at this (and other) outfalls, similar pH problems may continue intermittently.

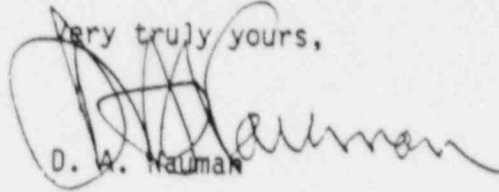
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The pH of Outfall 6B was measured at 8.7 on February 16, again indicating the intermittent nature of this problem. Should you have any further questions, please contact W. Frank Bacon of my staff at (803) 345-4156.

Very truly yours,



D. A. Hallman

DCB:DAN/lcd

pc: O. S. Bradham  
M. B. Williams  
M. N. Browne  
A. R. Koon, Jr.  
W. F. Bacon

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