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NRC Approves License Transfers for V.C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved an indirect transfer of the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company two-thirds interest in the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, 3, and the associated Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, from SCANA, SCE&G's parent company, to Dominion Energy, Inc. SCE&G and Dominion requested this indirect transfer on Jan. 25, following the Dominion and SCANA announced proposed merger.

While the corporate ownership will change, SCE&G will remain the licensed two-thirds co-owner and operator of Units 1, 2, and 3, and the ISFSI. The South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper) will retain its one-third ownership of the units and ISFSI. The proposed indirect transfer does not involve Santee Cooper's ownership interest in the Summer site.

Summer Unit 1 is a pressurized-water reactor located near Jenkinsville, S.C., about 26 miles northwest of Columbia. It is licensed to operate through Aug. 6, 2042. Units 2 and 3 had been under construction since the NRC issued combined construction and operating licenses in March 2012. SCE&G formally ended the Unit 2 and 3 construction on Aug. 17, 2017.

The NRC staff review of the license transfer application concluded that the merger between Dominion and SCANA would not affect the financial and technical qualifications of SCE&G to conduct the activities authorized by the licenses. The NRC staff also concluded that SCE&G has satisfied the NRC decommissioning funding assurance requirements, and the facility is not owned, controlled, or dominated by a foreign entity.