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**NRC RATES SUMMER NUCLEAR PLANT "SUPERIOR"  
IN ALL FOUR AREAS OF LATEST ASSESSMENT REPORT**

The Summer nuclear power plant received performance ratings of "superior" in all four areas of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's latest systematic assessment of licensee performance (SALP) of the facility.

The SALP report was issued August 26 to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, which operates the facility near Jenkinsville, South Carolina. It evaluates the plant's performance from October 27, 1996 through July 25 of this year.

NRC and SCE&G officials will discuss the report during a meeting set for 1:00 p.m. Friday, September 11, at the Summer site. The meeting will be open for public observation, and NRC officials will be available after the meeting to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

The NRC SALP process rates licensees in four functional areas — plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support — and assigns ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate.

The report on Summer gives the plant a Category 1 rating in plant operations, maintenance, engineering and plant support indicating "superior" performance. The ratings in the plant's previous SALP report, issued in December 1996, were Category 1's in plant operations, maintenance and engineering and Category 2 in plant support.

In his cover letter to the report, NRC Regional Administrator Luis Reyes said the "high level of performance resulted from the strong focus and teamwork of all those associated with the operation of the facility." He said senior managers set high standards, were actively involved and made conservative decisions during the assessment period.

Reyes also noted that challenges identified during the previous SALP period in the plant support area were addressed and there were improvements in the control of contaminated material and in the emergency management program.

As result of the Summer plant's superior performance, the next SALP period will be 24 months and the plant will receive a reduced level of NRC inspection.

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**EDITORS:** A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office. SALP reports are also available on the NRC's Internet web site ([www.nrc.gov/OPA](http://www.nrc.gov/OPA)) and by e-mail subscription. To receive SALP reports by e-mail as they are issued, send an e-mail to [listproc@nrc.gov](mailto:listproc@nrc.gov) with the following message: subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.