

***Midlands Business Leadership Group***

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Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

The Midlands Business Leadership Group is a coalition of more than 40 CEOs and executives from our region's largest employers who regularly convene and work on issues that are important to the Midlands. We and our families live, attend church, go to school and work in the Midlands. For many of us, our electric power is supplied by SCE&G.

Regardless of what caused it, we were certainly dismayed when the announcement came that SCANA, the parent of SCE&G, was ceasing construction of its nuclear project. We were no less concerned – again, regardless of the cause – that the stoppage of the nuclear project resulted in the elimination of jobs at the site as well as having a potential negative impact to SCE&G rate payers.

With the above acknowledged, however, we want to pose a central question for you, the members of our legislative bodies, as well as our regulatory authorities and our citizens to consider:

What could/would be the consequences potentially flowing from legislative and/or regulatory responses to this unfortunate set of circumstances?

For over 150 years, SCANA and its predecessors have supplied reliable energy to our homes and businesses in South Carolina. SCANA/SCE&G – have had a long and well-earned place among the very best corporate citizens in South Carolina. Today, SCANA is one of five South Carolina based companies on the Fortune 1000 list and the only one headquartered in the Midlands. More importantly, its employees – numbered in the thousands- are members of our families, our friends, sit beside us in church and participate with us in a wide range of civic and charitable organizations. Collectively, they have donated countless hours and support as volunteers to make our community a better place to live, work and raise our families. Additionally, SCANA plays a critical role in economic development and attracting new businesses and employment to our region and across the state of South Carolina.

Now, a proposed merger between Dominion Energy and SCANA deserves our thoughtful consideration. Among other matters, the merger offers a potential resolution to what is a very difficult situation - a resolution which is likely better than what could happen to SCANA, its employees and, very importantly, our community without it.

The intended legislative and/or regulatory “fixes” to address the problems associated with the reactor construction problems and issues, however, could actually result in unintended negative consequences for our community and state.

In closing, we respectfully urge all parties to resolve these difficult matters in a manner which will assure that our homegrown company and its thousands of employees will essentially remain intact to continue to provide energy to our homes and businesses as well as energizing hundreds of civic initiatives, community organizations and churches throughout the Midlands as well as being positioned to continue playing a vital role in economic development.

Midlands Business Leadership Group

John W. Folsom, Chair