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April 4, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation
Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2
Docket Numbers 50-413 and 50-414
Nuclear Service Water System Cleaning Project

By letter dated May 25, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated July 31, August 8, and August 17, 2000, Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) requested temporary changes to technical specifications (TS) to support the Nuclear Service Water System (NSWS) Cleaning and Auxiliary Feedwater (AFW) System pipe replacement Project. The NRC approved the temporary changes in a letter dated October 4, 2000. This letter is to document the completion and results of the cleaning and pipe replacement project.

The cleaning and pipe replacement project was completed during the last Unit 1 refueling outage in October 2000. The cleaning, pipe replacement, and testing were performed in 9 ¼ days for train A and 8 ¼ days for B train of the NSWS. This was well within the time frame of 12 days granted by the license amendment. The work was performed safely and no licensee event reports (LERs) were generated as a result of this work. This project allowed the inspection of intake structures, cleaning of the NSWS pump house, and cleaning of approximately 8000 linear feet of NSWS piping in various sizes. The cleaning process removed corrosion products, silt, sediment, and biological build-up from the pipe inside diameter and cleaned the pipe to almost bare metal. The cleaning also allowed for an internal inspection of the NSWS piping. This inspection included visual, UT and video taping to document the condition of the NSWS piping after cleaning. Remote cameras were used to videotape internal sections of the piping.

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Page 2
April 4, 2001

Previously additional periodic testing was performed on the NSWS and AFW systems due to system degradation to ensure proper system operation. These tests resulted in additional unavailability of these systems. The recently completed cleaning and modifications have increased the NSWS flow margin to safety-related components and assured sources. This will reduce future system unavailability due to reduced system testing. The NSWS to AFW system flow test frequency has been changed from once per quarter to once per 18-months.

Catawba Nuclear Station strongly believes that the short term increase in risk associated with this temporary TS change was acceptable because of the increased margin gained and reduced system unavailability in the future and increase the overall reliability for many years.

The detailed, thorough, and timely review by the NRC in support of the TS submittal was beneficial in allowing the cleaning project to be completed as scheduled. The support by the NRC staff for this project was appreciated and will result in improved NSWS system performance and reliability.

There are no commitments contained within this letter.

Inquiries on this matter should be directed to R. D. Hart at (803) 831-3622.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary R. Peterson".

Gary R. Peterson

RDH/s

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Page 3
April 4, 2001

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