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Gary R. Peterson
Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station

March 20, 2002

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Duke Energy Corporation
Catawba Nuclear Station Unit (s) 1 and 2
Docket Numbers 50-413 and 50-414
Notification of Plans for an Independent Spent Fuel
Storage Installation

The purpose of this letter is to provide initial notification of Duke Energy's plans to construct and operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) facility at Catawba Nuclear Station. It is intended that this notification will aid the staff in planning the allocation of resources for future years.

Since Catawba began commercial operations in 1985, spent fuel discharged from each of the two reactors has been stored in one of two fuel pools on the plant site. These pools have a combined capacity of 2,840 assemblies with a current inventory of 1,696 assemblies. Based upon projections of future fuel usage and allowing for operating margin, additional options for spent fuel storage will be desirable for Catawba in 2006. In the absence of a federal repository to provide spent fuel storage services, a dry storage project has been initiated at the station with the goal of providing expanded on-site storage capacity in 2006. Duke Energy intends to deploy dry storage at Catawba under the General License provisions of 10 CFR Part 72 Subpart K.

Duke Energy has extensive experience with dry storage at each of its two other nuclear stations - Oconee Nuclear Station and McGuire Nuclear Station. This experience will provide a significant benefit for the Catawba ISFSI project. The near-

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term activities at Catawba are focused on identifying and qualifying a location on the existing plant site for an ISFSI, developing a detailed schedule for the construction of an ISFSI, and selecting a dry storage system for use at Catawba. It is anticipated that dry runs and initial loadings for a Catawba ISFSI will occur in late 2005 or early 2006.

Duke Energy will continue to keep the staff informed of our activities associated with the Catawba ISFSI.

Please contact Margaret Chernoff at 803-831-3414 with any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G.R. Peterson", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

G.R. Peterson

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XC:

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