

April 18, 2003

LICENSEE: Duke Power Company

FACILITY: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2

SUBJECT: SUMMARY - MEETING WITH DUKE POWER COMPANY AND NUCLEAR  
ENERGY INSTITUTE ON STEAM GENERATOR TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATIONS (TAC NOS. MB7842 AND MB7843)

Representatives of the Duke Power Company (Duke) and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), met with members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff at NRC Headquarters on March 27, 2003, in Rockville, Maryland. The meeting addressed issues related to Duke's application dated February 25, 2003, (Reference 1) for revised Technical Specifications (TSs) for inspection of steam generators (SGs) at the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (Catawba). A list of attendees is provided in Attachment 1 and the handouts provided in the meeting are included in Attachment 2.

#### Background

A brief background for this issue is provided by a paragraph from Duke's letter dated February 25, 2003, as follows:

In July of 1993, the industry and NRC initiated discussion concerning TS requirements for steam generators. These amendment requests represent the culmination of this discussion and are based upon the industry initiative known as the NEI Generic License Change Package (GLCP). The proposed amendments are being submitted for Catawba on behalf of the industry to demonstrate the acceptability of the steam generator GLCP initiative developed through NEI 97-06, "Steam Generator Program Guidelines." The industry has been working closely with the NRC for the past decade to develop more appropriate steam generator TS. As a result of this initiative, steam generator safety and performance will be significantly improved. These amendment requests will formalize the NRC review process and will demonstrate the acceptability of this performance based initiative for Catawba, as well as for the rest of the industry.

Upon receipt of the Catawba application, the staff identified a number of potential issues and these were discussed in a telephone conference with Duke on March 20, 2003. These issues were transmitted in a letter from the NRC staff to Duke dated March 24, 2003, (Reference 2) to support preparation for the meeting that was held on March 27, 2003.

### Summary of Meeting

The NRC staff's presentation utilized the enclosed handouts entitled "Issues Pertaining to Catawba Steam Generator Submittal." The NRC staff has previously communicated these SG issues to the industry in Reference 3.

Principal topics of discussion for those previously identified TS issues included structural performance criteria, the SG inspection frequency, and tube repair methods. The NRC staff identified as a key requirement for its acceptance of a SG inspection program that the program must be established and implemented with the stated objective of ensuring that tube integrity is maintained. The staff's presentation addressed further detailed aspects of the structural performance criteria, the inspection interval, and repair methods as included in the enclosed handouts. The staff stated that with respect to designation of acceptable tube repair methods, the traditional practice has been to review specific methods proposed by licensees and reflect that approval in the plant-specific TS. Therefore, the staff has not reviewed the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code (Code) as being a stand-alone requirement, as the Duke submittal of February 25, 2003, proposed. The staff observed that Code development activities in the future could support an alternative to these past practices, but that would not likely occur within the timeframe for a decision on the Catawba application.

The NRC staff provided a sample version of TS to implement the revised SG inspection requirements and emphasized that these are drafts that reflect the staff's review of those TS proposed in the Catawba submittal only up to the date of this meeting. Further staff review may result in positions that certain of these TS should be further modified, but it was considered useful to reflect the staff's views on the TS that have been developed up to the date of this meeting.

The meeting resulted in improved communications and resolution of issues between the NRC staff, Duke, and NEI. For example, in Duke's presentation entitled "Catawba SG Program LAR," Duke made the following points:

- Duke is committed to the industry's SG program initiative and to developing the regulatory framework necessary to implement the necessary TS.
- Industry's efforts on the GLCP has led to the Catawba license amendment request and a Technical Specification Task Force submittal. Catawba is the lead plant for the industry's SG program TS changes.
- Duke agreed to change its proposal for TS 5.5.9.e to include the words "inspection intervals shall be established and implemented to ensure tube integrity is maintained" as proposed by the staff.
- Duke proposed further modifications to its proposals for cycle limitations, degradation activity threshold, structural performance criterion and repair methods as presented in more detail in Attachment 2.

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At the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC staff indicated that it would prepare specific Requests for Additional Information (RAI) that would further document its information requirements to enable continuance of the review of Duke's application of February 25, 2003. The staff estimated that an RAI on the structural integrity performance criterion would be prepared within a week and RAIs related to the TS would be prepared within about a month of this meeting. Duke indicated that it would consider the information gained from this meeting and would submit a revised license amendment request soon after receiving and processing the staff's further RAIs.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Attachments: 1. Attendance List  
2. Meeting presentation materials  
3. References

cc w/atts: See next page

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NAME	RMartin	CHawes	JNakoski
DATE	04/16/03	4/17/03	04/17/03

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ATTENDEES LIST

MARCH 27, 2003

MEETING WITH DUKE ENERGY AND  
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Bob Martin	NRC/NRR/DLPM
Russ Cipolla	APTECH ENGINEERING
Mohamad Behraves	EPRI
Larry Rudy	Duke/Catawba
Morris Sample	Duke/SG Maint & Eng./GO
Alex Marion	NEI
Rick Mullins	Southern Co.
Jim Riley	NEI
Leslie Miller	NRR/DE/EMCB
Bill Bateman	NRR/DE/EMCB
Rich Barrett	NRR/DE/EMCB
Jose G. Jimenez	NRR/DE/EMCB
Jonathan Rivera	NRR/DLPM
Ken Karwoski	NRR/DE/EMCB
William Beckner	NRR/DRIP/RORP
Kerri Kavanagh	NRR/DRIP/RORP
Steve Wideman	WCNOC/NEI TSTF
Brian Mann	EXCEL Services Corp/TSTF
Steve Long	NRC/NRR/SPSB
Allen Howe	NRC/NRR/PDII-2
Cheyl Khan	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Paul Klein	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Dan Mayes	Duke
Emmett Murphy	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Bob Weisman	NRC/OGC
Louise Lund	NRC/NRR/EMCB
Mario G. Cora	NRR/DRIP/RLEP

## References

1. Letter from G. R. Peterson, Duke, to NRC, "Proposed Technical Specification Amendments", dated February 25, 2003, ADAMS No. ML030690029.
2. Letter from R. E. Martin, NRC, to G. R. Peterson, Duke, "Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 Re: Steam Generator Program Guidelines (TAC NOS. MB7842 and MB7843), dated March 24, 2003, ADAMS No. ML030830297.
3. Letter from L. Lund, NRC to J. Riley, NEI, "NEI Steam Generator Generic License Change Package - Technical Specifications - Revision 6 of Steam Generator Examination Guidelines," dated September 9, 2002. ADAMS No. ML022520413

Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

Mr. Gary Gilbert  
Regulatory Compliance Manager  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Ms. Lisa F. Vaughn  
Legal Department (ECIIX)  
Duke Energy Corporation  
422 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

Anne Cottingham, Esquire  
Winston and Strawn  
1400 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

North Carolina Municipal Power  
Agency Number 1  
1427 Meadowwood Boulevard  
P. O. Box 29513  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626

County Manager of York County  
York County Courthouse  
York, South Carolina 29745

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency  
121 Village Drive  
Greer, South Carolina 29651

Ms. Karen E. Long  
Assistant Attorney General  
North Carolina Department of Justice  
P. O. Box 629  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

NCEM REP Program Manager  
4713 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4713

North Carolina Electric Membership  
Corporation  
P. O. Box 27306  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
4830 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Virgil R. Autry, Director  
Division of Radioactive Waste Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
Department of Health and Environmental  
Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-1708

Mr. C. Jeffrey Thomas  
Manager - Nuclear Regulatory  
Licensing  
Duke Energy Corporation  
526 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

Saluda River Electric  
P. O. Box 929  
Laurens, South Carolina 29360

Mr. Peter R. Harden, IV  
VP-Customer Relations and Sales  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
6000 Fairview Road  
12th Floor  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210

Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

Mr. T. Richard Puryear  
Owners Group (NCEMC)  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Richard M. Fry, Director  
Division of Radiation Protection  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment, Health, and  
Natural Resources  
3825 Barrett Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

Mr. Jim Riley  
Energy Institute  
17761 I Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006