

September 11, 2003

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

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation  
Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1  
Docket Number 50-413  
Withdrawal of Proposed Technical Specification Amendment  
to Relax Bypass Test Times for the Reactor Protection  
(RPS) and Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System  
(ESFAS)

References:

- 1) Letter from Dhiaa M. Jamil to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Proposed Technical Specification Amendment to Relax Bypass Test Times for the Reactor Protection (RPS) and Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System (ESFAS)," dated August 21, 2003.

In Reference 1, Duke Energy Corporation requested an amendment to the Catawba Nuclear Station Unit 1 Facility Operating License and Technical Specifications (TS). This proposed amendment would have allowed relaxation of the allowed bypass test times for Limiting Condition for Operation (LCOs) 3.3.1, Reactor Trip System (RTS) Instrumentation and 3.3.2, Engineered Safety Feature System Actuation System (ESFAS) Instrumentation. The proposed change would have revised the time an inoperable channel may be in bypass from 4 hours to 12 hours.

On August 29, 2003, Unit 1 experienced a reactor trip due to failure of the pressurizer pressure channel 2 which caused the corresponding channel of overtemperature delta-T to trip. As discussed in Reference 1, channel 1 of overtemperature delta-T was already in the tripped condition due to failure of two resistance temperature detectors (RTDs). Duke Energy decided to place Unit 1 in cold shutdown to replace the failed RTDs.

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The RTDs have been replaced and tested satisfactorily. Catawba can perform the necessary TS surveillance testing without relying on placing the failed channel in bypass. Therefore, Catawba no longer requires the TS change requested in Reference 1. Catawba requests withdrawal of this TS change.

There are no regulatory commitments contained in this letter or its attachments.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91, a copy of this proposed amendment is being sent to the appropriate State of South Carolina official.

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dhiam', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Dhiaa M. Jamil

RDH/s

Attachments

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xc (with attachments):

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