

January 31, 2006

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation
Catawba Unit 2
Docket Number 50-414
Request to Use a Later Edition of the ASME Boiler
and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, for
Inservice Inspection Activities at Catawba
Nuclear Station, Unit 2

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) and in accordance with the guidance provided in NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-12, dated July 28, 2004, Duke Energy Corporation hereby requests NRC approval to use the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, 2001 Edition, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing, commencing on October 15, 2012.

This request is being made for the third ten-year interval at Catawba Unit 2. The third ten-year interval began on October 15, 2005 for Unit 2 but the pressure tests in question are not required until the third period of the third ten-year interval, which begins on October 15, 2012.

The Catawba Unit 2 inservice inspection plans for the third ten-year interval will be developed according to the 1998 Edition with 2000 Addenda. This Code Edition and Addenda erroneously lists two pressure test requirements for Class 3 systems.

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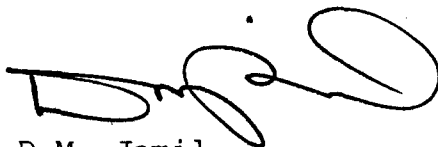
Per this letter, Duke Energy Corporation is requesting to use the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, 2001 Edition, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, where there is only one periodic leakage test required. Duke Energy Corporation plans to comply with the pressure and temperature hold times cited in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(xx) which requires a ten-minute holding time after attaining test pressure for Class 2 and Class 3 components that do not normally operate during operation, and no holding time is required for the remaining Class 2 and Class 3 components provided that the system has been in operation for at least four hours for insulated components or ten minutes for uninsulated components.

As noted in RIS 2004-12, licensees seeking to use later editions and addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv) or 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), are not required to seek relief pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(5)(iv), or 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5)(iv). RIS 2004-12 also notes that the regulations do not specify when a licensee must submit a letter requesting approval to use later editions and addenda of the Code, only that the letter must be submitted before using the proposed later Code edition and addenda. Therefore, Duke Energy Corporation may begin updating procedures using the proposed later Code edition and addenda at any time following submittal of this letter.

There are no NRC commitments contained in this letter.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please contact L.J. Rudy at (803) 831-3084.

Very truly yours,

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

D.M. Jamil

LJR/s

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