



Kelvin Henderson
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May 13, 2013

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

Subject: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy)
Catawba Nuclear Station (Catawba), Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414
Closure Options for Generic Safety Issue (GSI)-191, "Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized-Water Reactor Sump Performance" in Resolution of Final Issues Related to Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors"

On November 21, 2008, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a Request for Additional Information (RAI) regarding supplemental responses to GL 2004-02.

On August 13, 2012, Catawba submitted final responses to all but one NRC question in the November 21, 2008 RAI. For the one remaining RAI question related to in-vessel downstream effects, Catawba committed to resolving the issue pending completion of NRC review and approval of the methodology described in WCAP-16793-NP, Revision 2.

As described in detail in the August 13, 2012 submittal, Catawba has designed and implemented modifications to the plant configuration in both Units 1 and 2 to enhance post-accident performance related to GSI-191, including:

- Removal of a large quantity of fibrous insulation from the Unit 1 containment (complete)
- Design and implementation of a wholly modified, larger and more efficient strainer that incorporates bypass eliminators, resulting in a low downstream "pass-through" fibrous debris quantity in the reactor core of less than 15 grams/fuel assembly (complete in both units)
- Implementation of Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) Water Management Initiative modifications (complete in both units)

The August 13, 2012 submittal also outlined the remaining commitment related to closure of GSI-191 for Catawba. The commitment in that letter was associated with the Catawba response to in-vessel downstream effects. The status of this commitment is updated in the attachment to this letter.

A116
NRR

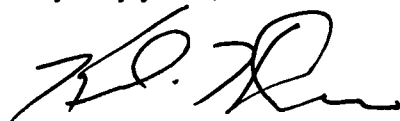
On July 9, 2012, the NRC technical staff issued Commission Paper SECY-12-0093, "Closure Options for Generic Safety Issue – 191, Assessment of Debris Accumulation on Pressurized-Water Reactor Sump Performance". In this letter, the staff recommended that licensees be allowed the flexibility to choose any of three options to resolve remaining issues on GSI-191: Option 1 – Compliance with 10 CFR 50.46 Based on Approved Models; Option 2 – Mitigative Measures and Alternative Methods Approach; and Option 3 – Different Regulatory Treatment for Suction Strainer and In-Vessel Effects. The associated Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) approving the SECY-12-0093 recommendation was subsequently issued on December 14, 2012.

In accordance with the SECY letter recommendation, Catawba will pursue GSI-191 Closure Option 1 since both Units 1 and 2 meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46, "Acceptance criteria for emergency core cooling systems for light-water nuclear power reactors", based on approved models for analyses, strainer head loss testing, and in-vessel downstream effects. WCAP-16793-NP, Revision 2 was approved by the NRC Safety Evaluation (SE) dated April 8, 2013; therefore, successful completion of the analysis in accordance with this SE will show compliance with 10 CFR 50.46 as it relates to in-vessel downstream effects, and will resolve the final outstanding RAI question for Catawba.

There are no new commitments made herein; however, per NRC guidance, the completion date for the commitment in the attachment to this letter is revised to July 31, 2013 to allow time for the appropriate documentation of the in-vessel downstream effects analysis in accordance with the April 8, 2013 NRC SE.

If any questions arise or if additional information is needed, please contact L.J. Rudy at (803) 701-3084.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Henderson", written over a horizontal line.

Kelvin Henderson

LJR/s

Attachment

xc (with attachment):

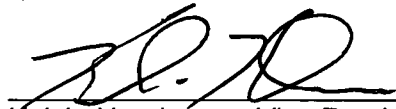
V.M. McCree, NRC Region II Administrator
Marquis One Tower
245 Peachtree Center Ave., NE Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257

J.S. Kim, NRC Project Manager
11555 Rockville Pike
Mail Stop 8 C2
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

G.A. Hutto, III, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Catawba Nuclear Station

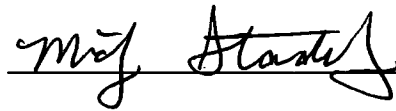
S.E. Jenkins, Manager
Radioactive and Infectious Waste Management
Division of Waste Management
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Kelvin Henderson affirms that he is the person who subscribed his name to the foregoing statement, and that all the matters and facts set forth herein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.



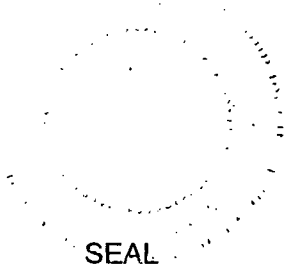
Kelvin Henderson, Vice President, Catawba Nuclear Station

Subscribed and sworn to me: 5-13-2013
Date



, Notary Public

My commission expires: 6-21-2022
Date



Attachment

Catawba Nuclear Station
Generic Letter 2004-02 Supplemental Response

Commitment

RAI Response	Commitment	Due Date
29	Catawba will address the in-vessel downstream effects issue.	July 31, 2013