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50-413 Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co. 05000413
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SUBJECT: Submits request for extension of response time for RAIs
issued on GL 97-01, "Degradation of CRDM/CEDM Nozzle & Other
Vessel Closure Head Penetrations."

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November 5, 1998

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

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50 -413, 414
TAC Nos. M98554, M98555
Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2 & 3
Docket Nos. 50 -269, 270, 287
TAC Nos. M98579, M98580, M98581
Request for an Extension of the Response Time
for RAIs issued on GL 97-01, Degradation of
CRDM/CEDM Nozzle and Other Vessel Closure Head
Penetrations

On August 27, 1998 and September 3, 1998, the NRC issued RAIs for Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3 and Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2, respectively. These RAIs were to be responded to within 90 days from the date of the respective letters. In the letters, the NRC encouraged the plants to continue to address these issues in an integrated fashion with their owners groups.

The industry, via NEI, is presently developing an integrated response to the RAIs that have been issued; however, the integrated response will not be complete until December 11, 1998. This schedule has been discussed with the NRC staff and they preferred that licensees use generic responses when possible. Additionally, the NRC staff indicated a willingness to agree with an extension of the response period until January 15, 1999, if required.

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Therefore, Duke requests that the response period for the Catawba and Oconee RAIs be extended until January 15, 1999.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Allison Jones-Young at (704) 382-3154.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. S. Tuckman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

M. S. Tuckman
Executive Vice President
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U.S. NRC

November 5, 1998

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