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SUBJECT: Advises NRC of recent organizational & programmatic changes that affect QA program for nuclear power plants. Ltr being submitted in order to fulfill commitment contained in section of topical rept.

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January 8, 1998

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Duke Energy Corporation

Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3  
Docket Nos. 50-269, 270, 287

McGuire Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-369, 370

Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-413, 414

Notification of Organizational Changes Affecting  
the Quality Assurance Program

Pursuant to 10CFR50.54(a)(3), Duke Energy Corporation is hereby advising the NRC of recent organizational and programmatic changes that affect the quality assurance program for its nuclear power plants.

Section 17., INTRODUCTION, of the Duke Quality Assurance Program Topical Report, Duke-1 (hereafter referred to as Topical Report), requires that the NRC be notified of significant organizational changes within thirty days of announcement. This letter is being submitted in order to fulfill the commitment contained in this section of the Topical Report.

Sections 17.3.1.2.3, 17.3.2.11, and 17.3.2.14 of the Topical Report discuss nuclear quality related activities performed by the Electric System Support Department (ESS). Included in these activities are measuring and test equipment calibration and non-destructive examination (NDE). Duke Energy Corporation has recently made a business decision to obtain the calibration activities and the portion of the NDE activities associated with eddy current examination from an approved supplier. The quality level of these activities

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January 8, 1998  
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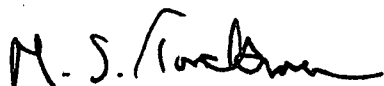
will continue to be ensured at a level equivalent to that currently required by the Topical Report; however, in the future these activities will be treated as supplier provided services, instead of activities performed internally by personnel within the Duke Power Group. Consequently, Topical Report Sections 17.3.2.4, Procurement Control and 17.3.2.5, Procurement Verification will become fully applicable to these activities and will be the NRC approved programmatic controls used in the future to ensure quality.

The organizational changes described above will be included in a future amendment to the Topical Report which subsequently will be submitted to the NRC pursuant to 10CFR50.71(e).

The programmatic changes resulting from the reorganization of ESS are considered administrative in nature. The Topical Report, as currently approved by the NRC, contains provisions to control quality on supplier provided services, such as the calibration and NDE activities described above. Duke has traditionally obtained similar services from approved suppliers, in compliance with regulatory requirements and as permitted by the Topical Report and approved internal procedures. The changes described in this letter have been evaluated in accordance with the requirements of 10CFR50.54. These changes have been determined to not lessen the responsibilities or obligations of Duke Energy Corporation in regard to its commitments presently contained in the Topical Report. Therefore, these changes have been determined to have no impact on Duke Energy Corporation's future capabilities to operate and maintain Oconee, McGuire, and Catawba Nuclear Stations in a manner that meets the quality assurance requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix B.

Please direct inquiries on this matter to J. S. Warren at (704) 382-4986.

Very truly yours,



M. S. Tuckman

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