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# The New Generation

## Catawba's Neighbors Attend Open House

Nearly 3,000 neighbors of the  
Catawba Nuclear Station got a

first-hand look at what goes into  
the construction of a nuclear  
power plant at the 1983 open  
house, held September 12-15.

Visitors to the site heard a pro-  
gram by plant management on  
how Catawba will produce elec-  
tricity and on emergency plan-  
ning. A guided tour of the site

followed the program. It in-  
cluded stops in the reactor  
building, turbine building, spent  
fuel building, cooling towers  
and the heart of the complex —  
the control room. Following the  
tour, neighbors were given the  
opportunity to talk informally  
with Duke employees and to ask  
questions about the plant and

Duke Power.

Duke sponsors an annual open  
house at Catawba to provide  
nearby residents with an op-  
portunity to see how the station  
is being built and to become  
more familiar with how nuclear  
power works.



## Resident NRC Inspectors Follow All Aspects of Plant

Kim Van Doorn and Pierce Skinner are senior resident inspectors for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Their jobs require a great deal of knowledge about the construction and operation of nuclear plants and they are responsible for ensuring safety in both areas. But Van Doorn and Skinner don't work in Washington—they work on site at Catawba Nuclear Station.

Senior resident inspectors are full-time, on-site representatives of the NRC. Van Doorn is responsible for the construction phase of the station while Skinner's responsibilities lie mainly with the operational phase. They are involved with virtually every aspect of Catawba from construction to security to health physics to emergency planning and everything in between.

"My primary responsibility is to perform on-site inspections covering all areas of construction," Van Doorn explains. "This is accomplished through implementation of a Resident Inspection Program as well as follow-up inspections. I also serve as a public and media contact regarding NRC activities relative to this station."

The Resident Inspection Program includes monthly reports and documentation along with inspections. To ensure a systematic approach to such a large task, Van Doorn and Skinner receive guidance from a document known as the NRC Inspection Enforcement Manual. This manual provides informa-

tion and requirements for their work. In addition, independent spot inspections are performed by the resident inspectors.

"This allows us to go into an area not specified in the manual and offers us the freedom to go deeper into any area we choose," Van Doorn said.

Skinner added, "we probably spend more time doing independent inspections than required inspections."

Van Doorn and Skinner's efforts are supplemented by region inspectors from the NRC who are experts in particular fields.

To qualify for such a job, a great deal of education, training and experience is required. Van Doorn is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in metallurgical engineering. He has military experience as a welding engineer and has been with the NRC for six years. Skinner has 18 years military experience with the U.S. Navy's nuclear program and also was start-up manager for a private utility prior to joining the NRC three years ago.

Van Doorn's primary duty is inspecting construction work. Skinner monitors the testing that takes place prior to plant operation and works with the start-up group.

Both inspectors agree that their role allows them to observe a lot. The NRC must be assured that the plant is built safely and will be operated safely. The resident inspectors have an open door to any employee who has a concern. "We are especially sensitive to possible concerns regarding the plant from any employee or neighbor," Van Doorn said.

An NRC inspector has the responsibility and authority to report any deficiencies so proper corrective action can be taken.

Resident inspectors must know plant schedules and be aware of any unresolved issues. "We try to continually assess the strengths and possible weaknesses which may exist," Van Doorn said. Their acquired knowledge of the project and other NRC personnel input is compiled in a yearly assessment of the plant's performance, called the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report.

According to Van Doorn and Skinner, the NRC has a code of conduct for all inspectors. "This code of conduct grants us total freedom to perform our work independently from the utility. We are even restricted in our social contact with any employee of Duke Power," Skinner

said. "And we can be relieved of our duty at a nuclear station for accepting items of value from the utility."

In addition, to ensure that resident inspectors remain unbiased, they normally remain at one location for only three to five years. Then they are reassigned to another location.

Skinner and his wife, Phyllis, have three children. Van Doorn and his wife, Sally, have three children also. Both of them live within five miles of Catawba Nuclear Station.

"We have a personal commitment as well as a professional commitment to ensure that Catawba is safe," Van Doorn said.



Resident NRC inspectors Kim Van Doorn (left) and Pierce Skinner examine stainless steel piping at Catawba.



## Catawba Security Officers Are a Highly-Trained Team

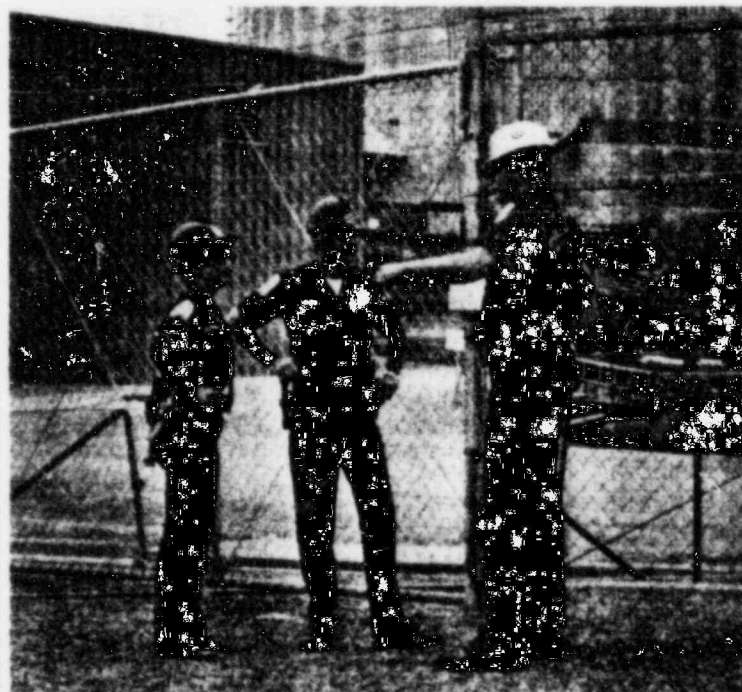
Being a security officer at Catawba Nuclear Station is very demanding. It requires discipline, professionalism, physical fitness, extensive training, a whole lot of motivation and a commitment to be the very best. The 176 officers who make up the security force at Catawba possess those qualities and more.

Protecting lives and property on the 391 acres that surround the station is a tremendous responsibility which is not taken lightly.

"Our officers have a personal pride in their jobs," said Lieutenant Jerry Minnicks, who is responsible for the lead team of security officers at Catawba. This lead team is responsible for the majority of the activity which takes place at the site during normal working hours.

Catawba's security officers are carefully selected and highly trained. New officers must complete an extensive nuclear security training program. It consists of 320 hours of classroom instruction in basic South Carolina law, power plant systems, first responder and fire brigade training and security-related Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations. They also receive instruction in the use of weapons.

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Lt. Jerry Minnicks (right) gives instructions to Catawba Security Officers Bill Williams and Carol Molsinger.



Emergency preparedness coordinator Mike Bolch talks to neighbors about the system of warning sirens around Catawba.

## On the Job: Mike Bolch

"The possibilities of us ever having a serious problem at Catawba are very, very low—but they're not zero," said Mike Bolch, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Catawba Nuclear Station. "That," he said, "is why we have an extensive emergency plan for this plant."

The plan contains instructions and procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency at the site. "Emergency planning for nuclear stations is a joint effort of local, state and federal agencies as well as the utility itself," Bolch said.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency set guidelines for emergency planning. This document assigns responsibilities to local and state agencies and the utility. "Prior to Three Mile Island, we had some emergency plans; but

they did not include any plans for coordinating with off-site agencies or events that affected the area outside the plant," Bolch said.

Since that time, emergency plans have become much more extensive, including detailed plans for the area within 10 miles of the plant and other plans for areas up to 50 miles from the site. More than 94,000 people live within the primary planning area of Catawba Nuclear Station, according to Bolch.

"Emergency preparedness involves taking the emergency plans, coordinating them with station personnel, training and retraining personnel on their duties and making sure everything is documented. It is virtually an ongoing process," he said. In addition, it also involves scheduling and conducting exercises and making revisions in the emergency plans.

Drills or exercises are conducted to test the ability of the various agencies to work to-

gether. The NRC requires Catawba to have an annual exercise which involves Duke personnel, local, state and federal agencies. Other exercises are held during the year which involve Duke personnel only.

"The exercises are one way of testing ourselves," Bolch said. "Our emergency plans are constantly being revised. We believe in self-examination, and we can always find better ways to do things—we can always improve."

Catawba's emergency planning efforts involve York County in South Carolina and the counties of Gaston and Mecklenburg in North Carolina.

"What I like about emergency preparedness is being able to work with all the different groups at the station such as operations, health physics, chemistry and maintenance," Bolch said.

Bolch is a native of Gastonia and has been with Duke Power for almost eight years. He and his family live in Belmont.

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The requirements for Catawba's security officers are strict. They must maintain proper weight, have good eyesight and hearing and be in top physical condition. They also must successfully complete an obstacle course and requalify yearly.

Anyone who works at Catawba or visits the site encounters security. The officers at Catawba must have the ability to work well and be effective with everyone.

A special unit, the Designated Armed Response Team (DART), consists of officers who are trained to respond to any type of unusual situation. "They are our nuclear SWAT team," Minnick said. These officers

receive 48 hours of additional training to prepare them to handle any security-related threat."

When fully staffed, the security force at Catawba will be one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the state of South Carolina. Its members will have an average of eight years experience in law enforcement.

Security officers begin each shift at Catawba with an inspection much like the military. Their personal pride comes through on the job and is instilled in each officer from the security chief down through the ranks. "We only want the best," Minnick said.

Many of the officers live near

Catawba. Carol Motsinger, a Clover resident, and Bill Williams, a Rock Hill resident, are members of the lead team. "I've always been used to high discipline and professionalism," Williams said.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Williams is assigned to the interim barrier, which will separate Catawba's two units.

Motsinger is currently on special assignment in construction security. Both officers started out on patrol when they joined the Catawba security force.

The camaraderie among officers is evident in their desire to work as a team. Motsinger is one of 24 female officers on the Cataw-

ba security force. "I just do my job and when they need me, I help. It doesn't matter that I'm female; what matters is that I'm a fellow officer," Motsinger said. Williams added that all officers wear the same uniform and they're all treated alike. "We're all part of the team that protects the public, the plant and the employees," he said.

## The New Generation

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