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DEC 23 1985

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President
Nuclear Production Department
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28242

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: CATAWBA EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACILITY APPRAISAL

The NRC is conducting special appraisals of emergency response facilities (ERFs) at all operating nuclear power reactors to verify that licensees have completed these facilities and have met the respective requirements defined in Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737. The objectives of these appraisals are to determine that the ERFs are capable of performing those functions needed to assist licensees in taking adequate protective measures in the event of a radiological emergency, and to assure that requirements in Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737 have been satisfied. We will use the findings from these appraisals as a basis not only for requesting individual licensee action to correct deficiencies, but also for effecting improvements in NRC requirements and guidance.

During the period of September 3-11, 1985, the NRC conducted a special appraisal of the ERFs at the Catawba Nuclear Station. This appraisal was performed using Draft Revision 5 of IE Inspection Procedure 82212. Areas examined during this appraisal are identified in the enclosed report (50-413/85-39, 50-414/85-36). Within these areas, the appraisal team reviewed selected procedures and records, inspected the facilities, equipment and supplies, observed simulated use of the equipment and supplies, and interviewed personnel.

Within the scope of this appraisal, no violations or deviations were identified.

The findings of this appraisal indicate that certain weaknesses exist. These are discussed in Appendix A, ERF Appraisal Weaknesses. The appraisal also indicates that several areas were found to be incomplete, and could not be evaluated during the appraisal. These findings are listed in Appendix B, ERF Appraisal Open Items. Finally, there are areas which should be evaluated and considered for improvement. These areas are listed in Appendix C, ERF Appraisal Improvement Items. We recognize that explicit regulatory requirements pertaining to Improvement Items may not currently exist. Notwithstanding the latter, please advise us within 45 days of the date of this letter of actions you plan to take, showing the estimated date of completion regarding the findings identified in the Appendices.

With regard to the Appraisal open items, we are particularly interested in your planned expansion of Catawba Units 1 and 2 Operations Support Center (OSC) and completion of construction of your Crisis Management Center (CMC). Your continued progress regarding these facilities will be reviewed in future inspections.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room, unless you notify this office, by telephone, within ten days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within thirty days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 2.790(b)(1). If we do not hear from you in this regard within the specified periods noted above, the report will be placed in the Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Virgil L. Brownlee, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, ERF Weaknesses
2. Appendix B, ERF Open Items
3. Appendix C, ERF Improvement Items
4. Inspection Report Nos.:
50-413/85-39 and 50-414/85-36

cc w/encls:

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