March 4, 2011

Mr. J. R. Morris  
Site Vice President  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
4800 Concord Road  
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000413/2011001 AND 05000414/2011001)

Dear Mr. Morris:

On February 9, 2011, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) Units 1 and 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. This letter informs you of the NRC’s assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC’s assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, CNS Units 1 and 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at CNS Units 1 and 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC’s Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. We also plan on conducting Inspection Procedure 60855.1, “Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants,” and initial reactor operator license examinations. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (404) 997-4607 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-413, 50-414
License Nos.: NPF-35, NPF-52

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

Enclosure: Catawba Inspection/Activity Plan (03/01/2011 – 6/30/2012)
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Enclosure: Catawba Inspection/Activity Plan (03/01/2011 – 6/30/2012)
cc w/encl:

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Letter to J. R. Morris from Jonathan H. Bartley dated March 4, 2011

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000413/2011001 AND 05000414/2011001)

Distribution w/encl:
C. Evans, RII
L. Douglas, RII
OE Mail
RIDSNRRDIRS
PUBLIC
RidsNrrPMCatawba Resource
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.

This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.