

April 18, 2003

LICENSEE: Duke Power Company
FACILITY: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2
SUBJECT: SUMMARY - MEETING WITH DUKE POWER COMPANY AND NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE ON STEAM GENERATOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS (TAC NOS. MB7842 AND MB7843)

Representatives of the Duke Power Company (Duke) and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), met with members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff at NRC Headquarters on March 27, 2003, in Rockville, Maryland. The meeting addressed issues related to Duke's application dated February 25, 2003, (Reference 1) for revised Technical Specifications (TSs) for inspection of steam generators (SGs) at the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (Catawba). A list of attendees is provided in Attachment 1 and the handouts provided in the meeting are included in Attachment 2.

Background

A brief background for this issue is provided by a paragraph from Duke's letter dated February 25, 2003, as follows:

In July of 1993, the industry and NRC initiated discussion concerning TS requirements for steam generators. These amendment requests represent the culmination of this discussion and are based upon the industry initiative known as the NEI Generic License Change Package (GLCP). The proposed amendments are being submitted for Catawba on behalf of the industry to demonstrate the acceptability of the steam generator GLCP initiative developed through NEI 97-06, "Steam Generator Program Guidelines." The industry has been working closely with the NRC for the past decade to develop more appropriate steam generator TS. As a result of this initiative, steam generator safety and performance will be significantly improved. These amendment requests will formalize the NRC review process and will demonstrate the acceptability of this performance based initiative for Catawba, as well as for the rest of the industry.

Upon receipt of the Catawba application, the staff identified a number of potential issues and these were discussed in a telephone conference with Duke on March 20, 2003. These issues were transmitted in a letter from the NRC staff to Duke dated March 24, 2003, (Reference 2) to support preparation for the meeting that was held on March 27, 2003.

Summary of Meeting

The NRC staff's presentation utilized the enclosed handouts entitled "Issues Pertaining to Catawba Steam Generator Submittal." The NRC staff has previously communicated these SG issues to the industry in Reference 3.

Principal topics of discussion for those previously identified TS issues included structural performance criteria, the SG inspection frequency, and tube repair methods. The NRC staff identified as a key requirement for its acceptance of a SG inspection program that the program must be established and implemented with the stated objective of ensuring that tube integrity is maintained. The staff's presentation addressed further detailed aspects of the structural performance criteria, the inspection interval, and repair methods as included in the enclosed handouts. The staff stated that with respect to designation of acceptable tube repair methods, the traditional practice has been to review specific methods proposed by licensees and reflect that approval in the plant-specific TS. Therefore, the staff has not reviewed the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code (Code) as being a stand-alone requirement, as the Duke submittal of February 25, 2003, proposed. The staff observed that Code development activities in the future could support an alternative to these past practices, but that would not likely occur within the timeframe for a decision on the Catawba application.

The NRC staff provided a sample version of TS to implement the revised SG inspection requirements and emphasized that these are drafts that reflect the staff's review of those TS proposed in the Catawba submittal only up to the date of this meeting. Further staff review may result in positions that certain of these TS should be further modified, but it was considered useful to reflect the staff's views on the TS that have been developed up to the date of this meeting.

The meeting resulted in improved communications and resolution of issues between the NRC staff, Duke, and NEI. For example, in Duke's presentation entitled "Catawba SG Program LAR," Duke made the following points:

- Duke is committed to the industry's SG program initiative and to developing the regulatory framework necessary to implement the necessary TS.
- Industry's efforts on the GLCP has led to the Catawba license amendment request and a Technical Specification Task Force submittal. Catawba is the lead plant for the industry's SG program TS changes.
- Duke agreed to change its proposal for TS 5.5.9.e to include the words "inspection intervals shall be established and implemented to ensure tube integrity is maintained" as proposed by the staff.
- Duke proposed further modifications to its proposals for cycle limitations, degradation activity threshold, structural performance criterion and repair methods as presented in more detail in Attachment 2.

April 18, 2003

At the conclusion of the meeting, the NRC staff indicated that it would prepare specific Requests for Additional Information (RAI) that would further document its information requirements to enable continuance of the review of Duke's application of February 25, 2003. The staff estimated that an RAI on the structural integrity performance criterion would be prepared within a week and RAIs related to the TS would be prepared within about a month of this meeting. Duke indicated that it would consider the information gained from this meeting and would submit a revised license amendment request soon after receiving and processing the staff's further RAIs.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Attachments: 1. Attendance List
2. Meeting presentation materials
3. References

cc w/atts: See next page

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ATTENDEES LIST

MARCH 27, 2003

MEETING WITH DUKE ENERGY AND
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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References

1. Letter from G. R. Peterson, Duke, to NRC, "Proposed Technical Specification Amendments", dated February 25, 2003, ADAMS No. ML030690029.
2. Letter from R. E. Martin, NRC, to G. R. Peterson, Duke, "Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 Re: Steam Generator Program Guidelines (TAC NOS. MB7842 and MB7843), dated March 24, 2003, ADAMS No. ML030830297.
3. Letter from L. Lund, NRC to J. Riley, NEI, "NEI Steam Generator Generic License Change Package - Technical Specifications - Revision 6 of Steam Generator Examination Guidelines," dated September 9, 2002. ADAMS No. ML022520413

Catawba Nuclear Station

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