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February 21, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTENTION: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation
Catawba Nuclear Station Unit 1 and 2
Docket No.: 50-413, 414
Special Report
Meteorological Data Recovery

Pursuant to Regulatory Guide 1.23, this Special Report is being submitted to report that the 1999 annual data recovery rate of 90 percent for Meteorological Instrumentation for Catawba Nuclear Station was not met. Data results for 1999 indicate a data recovery of 86.6 percent at the 60-meter Joint for Wind Speed, Wind Direction and Temperature Differential. Several separate events account for the inability to meet the 90 percent data recovery rate.

In April and May 1999 a test protective cap was not properly installed after maintenance. When there was condensing humidity or rain the pins in the connector developed a low resistance path between them (similar to a short). The moisture had dried by the time the maintenance technicians could investigate and the source of the problem could not be found. A calibration was performed early one morning, while the humidity was still high, and the technicians found the moisture in the connector and properly installed the cap. Corrective actions were taken to insure that the importance of the proper installation of the cap was understood.

During the Unit 1 outage, 1EOC11, a motor control center (MCC) was tagged for maintenance. The MCC powered the instrumentation for the meteorological equipment and tower. This association was not in the documentation used to tag out the MCC. Corrective actions were addressed in the Problem Investigation Program and the information was added to plant documents.

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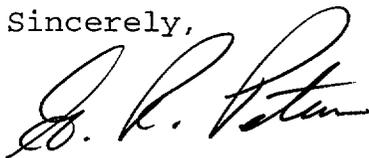
In August 1999, a cup broke off the wind speed sensor. The failure was not detected in the weekly system check. A change was made to IP/O/B/3343/001, "METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING WEEKLY SYSTEM CHECK", to use binoculars to check the condition of the sensors when they are above maintenance (ground) level.

There have been several intermittent failures of sensors. The Meteorological System Engineer has increased the system health review of the equipment to weekly to insure that data loss is minimized in the future.

The conditions described no impact on the ability to obtain meteorological data for dose assessment purposes because an alternate method is available.

Please direct any questions to Martha Purser at (803) 831-4015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. R. Peterson".

G. R. Peterson

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xc w/att: L. A. Reyes, Regional, Administrator
USNRC, Region II

C. P. Patel, Project Manager
USNRC, ONRR

D. J. Roberts
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