



Gary R. Peterson
Vice President

Duke Power
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745
(803) 831-4251 OFFICE
(803) 831-3426 FAX

April 17, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Stations, Unit 2
Docket Nos. 50-414
CPES Train Heater Inoperable (TS 3.9.3 B.)
Special Report

On March 13, 2000, the Unit 2 Containment Purge (VP) Ventilation System heater was declared inoperable during performance of a 10-hour heater surveillance periodic test. It was discovered that a heater element for the Unit 2 VP duct heater (2HETR0528) had failed. Initial investigation revealed that the heater element in stage 1B was faulty. The failure of the heater element caused a power fuse to blow that caused the control power to the heater controls to de-energize. A temporary modification (CNTM-0020) was implemented on March 20, 2000, to partially restore the heater to service. Though the heater is technically inoperable because it currently cannot provide the rated heater capacity as stated in the Technical Specifications, the operability of the VP System is not affected.

The existing heater assembly will be replaced with a new assembly under Work Order 98256649-01, to restore the heater to operable status. This repair is scheduled to be completed during the current Unit 2 innage period, however, the retest cannot be performed until the next Unit 2 outage (2EOC11). Successful completion of the performance test during the next refueling outage will restore the heater to operable status.

An apparent cause of the heater failure will be documented in the licensee's problem investigation process (PIP C-00-01242). The two commitments above, repair the heater and test in the next outage, will also be tracked in our corrective action program.

Any questions concerning this report should be directed to Kay Nicholson at (803) 831-3237.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Peterson

xc: L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
C. P. Patel, ONRR
D. J. Roberts, SRI

JEJ 1/0