

May 9, 2001

Mr. G. R. Peterson
Site Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745-9635

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-02, "LOSS OF REACTOR COOLANT INVENTORY AND ASSOCIATED POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF EMERGENCY MITIGATION FUNCTION WHILE IN A SHUTDOWN CONDITION" (TAC NOS. MA4777 AND MA4778)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On May 28, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-02 to all holders of operating licenses for pressurized water reactors (PWR), except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel. The NRC issued GL 98-02 to request that PWR licensees evaluate a September 17, 1994, event, which occurred at Wolf Creek, which had the potential to draindown the reactor coolant system to the refueling water storage tank and, at the same time, render the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and residual heat removal (RHR) system inoperable by introducing a steam/water mixture to the suction side of the ECCS and RHR pumps. Addressees of GL 98-02 were requested to provide the following information within 180 days: (1) an assessment of whether the addressee's facility is vulnerable to the September 17, 1994, Wolf Creek event, and (2) if the facility is found to be vulnerable, an assessment of the plant-specific 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, quality assurance program attributes which will prevent the subject event. If the addressee's facility was determined to be vulnerable, a response to information item (1) was to be provided pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) and 10 CFR 50.4, and the responses to information items (1) and (2) were to be kept in a licensee's retrievable system for use by the NRC staff on an as-needed basis.

In response to GL 98-02, you provided a letter dated November 24, 1998, for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The submittal indicated that the units were vulnerable to the type of incident that occurred at Wolf Creek and further indicated that the plant evaluation concerning the subject vulnerability (information item (2) of GL 98-02), was being kept in a retrievable licensee system that the NRC can verify on an as-needed or sample basis, in accordance with GL 98-02.

By letter dated December 16, 1999, the Region II NRC staff issued NRC Inspection Report No. 50-413/99-07; 50-414/99-07. The subject inspection report contained details of the NRC staff's on-site verification of activities which you undertook in response to GL 98-02 for Catawba, Units 1 and 2. Specifically, the inspector verified that the licensee had effectively implemented administrative controls, configuration management, and operating procedures to preclude an inadvertent draindown event as described in GL 98-02. The conclusion of the

inspection report was that the licensee had established administrative controls and corrective actions from a previous draindown event to prevent such an event from occurring.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided and (2) that your on-site activities adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for Catawba Units 1 and 2; therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for the units.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Chandu P. Patel, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

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/RA/

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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