UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

June 15, 2001

Mr. Phil Ponder
Acting Gaston County Manager
P. O. Box 1578
Gastonia, NC 28053-1578

SUBJECT: NRC ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Ponder:

The annual performance assessment of the Catawba Nuclear Station has been completed in accordance with the NRC Reactor Oversight Process, using the most recent performance indicators and inspection findings from the last 12 months. The assessment reflects current licensee performance and is described in the enclosed Annual Assessment Letter sent to the Duke Energy Corporation on May 31, 2001.

On July 11, 2001, members of my staff will meet with the management of the Duke Energy Corporation to discuss the performance of Catawba. This meeting is scheduled to be conducted at 10:00 a.m., at the Catawba site (4800 Concord Road, York, SC) in the Administration Building (number 7720), Room 153A.

I would like to personally invite you to attend this Annual Assessment Meeting. Also in conjunction with this meeting, I would like to invite you to a separate meeting between you and other State and local government officials, and my staff. This meeting will be conducted at the same location shortly after the conclusion of the Annual Assessment Meeting. The purposes of this meeting are to meet the NRC inspectors at Catawba, and to ensure that you are aware of the NRC inspection and assessment process and the avenues that are available to bring concerns that you or your constituents have to the NRC. This meeting will also provide you the opportunity to inform us of any current personal or constituent concerns with Catawba. There is also another means for you to become familiar with the Reactor Oversight Process and the specific performance of Catawba. Through the NRC Web site, you can access the same information we use in our annual assessment of plant performance. This information may be accessed at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT.

Your schedule permitting, my staff looks forward to meeting with you on July 11, 2001. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or Mr. Malcolm Widmann of my staff if we

can be of further assistance to you. You can contact us at 1-800-577-8510, extension 24410 or 24550, respectively.

Sincerely,

//RA//

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: As Stated

PUBLIC DOCUMENT (circle one): YES

OFFICE	RII	RII					
SIGNATURE	REC	REC/FOR					
NAME	RCARROLL	MWIDMANN					
DATE	6/15/01	6/15/01					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 4.0\PDF Output\cat Ponder.wpd