

September 10, 2001

LICENSEE : Duke Energy Corporation

FACILITIES: McGuire, Units 1 and 2, and Catawba, Units 1 and 2

SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATION WITH DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION TO DISCUSS
INFORMATION IN THEIR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION ON THE
BORAFLEX MONITORING PROGRAM

On August 21, 2001, after reviewing the discussion of the applicant's boraflex monitoring program in Appendix B of their license renewal application (LRA), a conference call was conducted between the NRC and Duke Energy Corporation to clarify information presented in the application. Participants in the conference call are provided in Attachment 1.

The questions asked by the staff, as well as the responses provided by the applicant, are as follows:

1. How often, and for what duration, is the spent fuel pool (SFP) purification loop placed in service at the McGuire Nuclear Station? How does the purification loop impact the concentration of silica in the SFP inventory? What steps, if any, has the applicant taken to limit the disturbance of the SFP's quiescent state?

The applicant indicated that the purification loop is in service continuously. The applicant's predictive model of boraflex degradation (RACKLIFE) accounts for the continuous operation of the purification loop. The SFP inventory is processed at a rate of 300 gallons per minute with a 24-hour turnover of the entire inventory. The efficiency of the demineralizers for silica removal is approximately one percent.

2. Has the applicant verified the RACKLIFE predictions of boraflex degradation? What are the projections of the RACKLIFE model for the period of extended operation?

The applicant stated that degradation of the boraflex as determined by in-situ measurements (BADGER) was generally consistent with RACKLIFE predictions for Region 1, but had exceeded RACKLIFE predictions for Region 2. However, the measured degradation was within the limits imposed by Selected Licensee Commitment 16.9.24, which imposes surveillance requirements and operating limits on boraflex fuel storage racks. The applicant indicated that, while RACKLIFE has not been used to project boraflex degradation in the period of extended operation, the applicant has already initiated activities to mitigate the consequences of the anticipated unacceptable loss of boraflex.

The applicant's responses to these questions were acceptable and preclude the need to request additional information at this time.

A draft of this telecommunication summary was provided to the applicant to allow them the opportunity to comment prior to the summary being issued.

/RA/

Rani L. Franovich, Project Manager
License Renewal Project Directorate
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-369, 50-370, 50-413, and 50-414

Attachment: List of Participants

cc w/attachment: See next page

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/RA/

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License Renewal Project Directorate
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
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Docket Nos. 50-369, 50-370, 50-413, and 50-414

Attachment: List of Participants

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