

Docket Nos. 50-413

Mr. H.B. Tucker, Vice President
Nuclear Production Department
Duke Power Company
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

18 JUN 1986

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Enclosed for your information is a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your November 25, 1985, request for an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to submit an updated Final Safety Analysis Report for Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, within 24 months of issuance of the operating license. The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

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K. Jabbour, Project Manager
Project Directorate #4
Division of PWR Licensing-A

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

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Mr. H. B. Tucker
Duke Power Company

Catawba Nuclear Station

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDUKE POWER COMPANYNORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONSALUDA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE , INC.DOCKET NO. 50-413NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 50.71 (e)(3)(1) to the Duke Power Company, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and Saluda River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (the licensee) for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, located at the licensee's site in York County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to submit an updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) for Unit 1 of the Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) within 24 months of the issuance of the operating license. An operating license was issued for Catawba Unit 1 on July 18, 1984. By letter dated November 25, 1985, supplemented by letter dated May 21, 1986, Duke Power Company requested an exemption to 10 CFR 50.71(e) which would defer submittal of the UFSAR by 12 months on the basis that the Catawba FSAR applies to both Catawba Units. It has been updated on January 31, 1986, prior to the issuance of the Catawba Unit 2 low power license on February 24, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The full power operating license for Catawba Unit 2 was issued on May 15, 1986. The licensee is now engaged in startup testing and expects to complete such testing within the next six months. Thus, station personnel are unavailable for a detailed review of the FSAR. It is

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also desirable to complete power ascension testing and to place the plant in commercial operation before updating the FSAR so that design modifications found necessary by testing can be incorporated and so that licensee's engineering personnel who are heavily involved in the support of startup testing and resultant plant modifications can be used in preparing and reviewing the updated FSAR. Thus, for Catawba Unit 1, there is a need to extend the date for submittal of the updated FSAR. The requested extension to July 18, 1987, will allow the licensee's engineering personnel necessary and sufficient time to concentrate on startup testing and resultant design changes before concentrating on the engineering review associated with the preparation of the UFSAR.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption affects only the required date for updating the FSAR and does not affect the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously, and the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents, or any significant occupational exposures. With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect plant non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measureable radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measureable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives either will have no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require an earlier date for submittal of the UFSAR. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the

environment and would result in unnecessary diversion of utility engineering resources from safety related work.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for Catawba Nuclear Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact: The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption. Based upon the environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letters dated November 25, 1985 and May 21, 1986. These letters are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the York County Library, 138 East Black Street, Rock Hill South Carolina 29730.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 12th day of June 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Paul O'Connor, Acting Director
PWR Project Directorate #4
Division of PWR Licensing-A

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