

October 13, 1988

Docket Nos.: 50-413
and 50-414

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

Dear Mr. Tucker:

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT NO. 55 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35
AND AMENDMENT NO. 48 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52 - CATAWBA
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TACS 69097/69098)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 55 to Facility Operating License NPF-35 and Amendment No. 48 to Facility Operating License NPF-52 for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. These amendments are issued in response to your application dated August 15, 1988

The amendments modify the operating licenses to allow an extension of time for resolution of the accumulator tank instrumentation issue.

A copy of the related safety evaluation supporting Amendment No. 55 to Facility Operating License NPF-35 and Amendment No. 48 to Facility Operating License NPF-52 is enclosed.

Notice of issuance of amendments will be included in the Commission's next bi-weekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Project Manager
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects I/II

Enclosures:

- 1. Amendment No. 55 to NPF-35
- 2. Amendment No. 48 to NPF-52
- 3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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Mr. H. B. Tucker
Duke Power Company

Catawba Nuclear Station

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DATED: October 13, 1988

AMENDMENT NO. 55 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35 - Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1
AMENDMENT NO. 48 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52 - Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

DUKE POWER COMPANY

NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

SALUDA RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-413

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 55
License No. NPF-35

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-35 filed by the Duke Power Company acting for itself, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and Saluda River Electric Cooperative, Inc., (licensees) dated August 15, 1988, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

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2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License No. NPF-35 is hereby changed as follows:

A. Change paragraph 2.C(12)(a) to read as follows:

Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2, Compliance (Section 7.5.2, SSER #4, SSER #5)

Prior to startup following the fifth refueling outage, Duke Power Company shall provide qualified accumulator discharge instrumentation.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II

Date of Issuance: October 13, 1988

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

DUKE POWER COMPANY

NORTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY NO. 1

PIEDMONT MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

DOCKET NO. 50-414

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 48
License No. NPF-52

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment to the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-52 filed by the Duke Power Company acting for itself, North Carolina Municipal Power Agency No. 1 and Piedmont Municipal Power Agency, (licensees) dated August 15, 1988, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License No. NPF-52 is hereby changed as follows:

A. Change paragraph 2.C(8)(a) to read as follows:
Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2, Compliance (Section 7.5.2, SSER #4, SSER #5)

Prior to startup following the fourth refueling outage, Duke Power Company shall provide qualified accumulator discharge instrumentation.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original Signed By:

David B. Matthews, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II

Date of Issuance: October 13, 1988

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 55 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35
AND AMENDMENT NO. 48 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52
DUKE POWER COMPANY, ET AL.
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated August 15, 1988, Duke Power Company, et al., (the licensee) proposed that License Conditions 2.C.(12)(a) and 2.C.(8)(a) of Facility Operating Licenses NPF-35 and NPF-52, respectively, be amended to allow an extension of time for the resolution of the accumulator tank instrumentation issue. The extension would be for two complete cycles of operation.

A two operating cycle extension for Catawba Unit 1 was previously approved by amendment 15, issued on October 6, 1986, to Facility Operating License NPF-35 and a one cycle extension for Catawba Unit 2 was approved by amendment 27 issued on November 25, 1987 to Facility Operating License NPF-52.

2.0 EVALUATION

The proposed amendments would revise License Conditions 2.C.(12)(a) and 2.C.(8)(a) of the Catawba Units 1 and 2 licenses to allow an extension of time for the resolution of the accumulator tank instrumentation issue which is related to Generic Letter 82-33, "Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737, Requirements for Emergency Response Capability." It was also discussed in Section 7.5.2 of Supplement 5 to the Catawba Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-0954) and is currently under staff review because of its generic implications.

The primary function of the accumulator pressure or level instrumentation is to monitor the pre-accident status of the accumulators to assure that the passive safety system is in a ready state to serve its safety function. The licensee stated that the accumulator tank level and pressure are not referenced in any emergency procedure covering design basis events which may cause a harsh environment. No operator actions in these procedures are based on accumulator indications and the present instrumentation is fully qualified to perform its function of pre-accident monitoring. Therefore, the staff concludes that extension of the date for upgrading the accumulator pressure or level instrumentation until startup following the fifth refueling outage for Catawba Unit 1 and the fourth outage for Unit 2 is acceptable.

Based on the above discussion, the modified License Conditions 2.C.(12)(a) of NPF-35 and 2.C.(8)(a) of NPF-52 would, respectively, state that:

"Prior to startup following the fifth refueling outage, Duke Power Company shall provide qualified accumulator discharge instrumentation." and "Prior to startup following the fourth refueling outage, Duke Power Company shall provide qualified accumulator discharge instrumentation."

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

These amendments involve changes to the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational exposure. The NRC staff has made a determination that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of these amendments.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission made a proposed determination that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration which was published in the Federal Register (53 FR 34602) on September 7, 1988. The Commission consulted with the state of South Carolina. No public comments were received, and the state of South Carolina did not have any comments.

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and the issuance of these amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: K. Jabbour, PDII-3/DRP-I/II

Dated: October 13, 1988