

May 18, 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: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE RELATING TO
THE MONITOR TANK BUILDING FOR CATAWBA UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. 67612
AND 67613)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact." This notice relates to your application dated March 23, 1988, which requested changes to the Catawba Units 1 and 2 Technical Specifications concerning the Monitor Tank Building.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

Enclosure:
FEDERAL REGISTER Notice

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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| Docket File | Catawba Reading |
| NRC PDR | K. Jabbour |
| Local PDR | E. Jordan |
| PDII-3 Reading | OGC-WF |
| S. Varga | J. Partlow |
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PDR

Mr. H. B. Tucker
Duke Power Company

Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
DUKE POWER COMPANY, et al.
DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-35, and NPF-52 issued to Duke Power Company, et al. (the licensee), for operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, located in York County, South Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The amendments would revise Technical Specification (TS) Tables 3.3-12, 3.3-13, 4.3-8, 4.3-9, 4.11-1 and 4.11-2 to add TS requirements to cover operation of systems and components associated with the Monitor Tank Building (MTB) which is being constructed at Catawba Nuclear Station. Also, TS Figure 5.1-4 "Unrestricted Area and Site Boundary for Radioactive Gaseous Effluent" will be revised to show the MTB as a potential release point.

The MTB and associated components, including additional tankage, will increase process rates and ensure segregation for the various liquid waste streams. By providing a piping arrangement and process area to accommodate portable temporary equipment, the facility will provide surge capacity and processing flexibility to incorporate such future problems as load cycling, ice condenser ice melt and potential volume reduction requirements.

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The licensee's application for amendments was dated March 23, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

At the present time, Catawba does not have the capability to process large volumes of liquid radwaste due to restrictions on releases and release rates. This is particularly true for peak load conditions associated with routine plant operations such as during refueling outages. The MTB will provide a means to handle larger quantities of radioactive wastes and reduce occupational exposures.

The amendments to the Technical Specifications are necessary to ensure that appropriate controls for the radioactive liquid and gaseous effluent monitors and flow rate measuring devices are in place to cover the operation of the MTB.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments to the Catawba Technical Specifications would adequately ensure the operability of the radioactive gaseous and liquid effluent monitoring instrumentation and would also ensure that proper sampling and analysis programs are in place for all radioactive gaseous and liquid effluent releases.

The MTB includes many ALARA design features that will reduce the occupational doses from maintenance and operations from those currently received. Its primary functions are to provide additional processing capacity for high radwaste inventories during normal operation, primary-to-secondary leaks, and contaminated powdex processing. The dose levels associated with the powdex processing in the MTB would be much lower than if processing occurred in the turbine building. Therefore, for the same operations, the individual and occupational cumulative dose levels should be lower than what is currently experienced.

Operation of the MTB will not increase the quantity of radioactive gaseous and liquid effluents produced by the Catawba Nuclear Station. The MTB will provide a means to handle larger quantities of radioactive wastes and reduce occupational exposures.

The MTB and associated trenches do not house any equipment which is important to safety and being a remote facility, cannot adversely affect any equipment which is important to safety. An accident or malfunction within the facility can, however, result in a radioactive release to the environment. The most severe consequences would be those following a tank failure.

The accident which is already analyzed in the FSAR is the failure of the refueling water storage tank (RWST) which results in the release of 395,000 gallons of contaminated water directly to Lake Wylie. Since the total volume of all MTB tankage is much less than that of the RWST and since the radionuclide concentrations of liquids within the MTB will be less than those assumed in the RWST analysis, the consequences of an MTB accident would be much less severe than an RWST accident. The releases resulting from a postulated RWST failure were determined to be within the limits of 10 CFR 20, Appendix B.

Accidents and malfunctions within the MTB will, therefore, not affect the safe operation or shutdown of the plant and will not adversely affect the health and safety of the public.

From the above evaluation of accidents, occupational radiation exposures and radiological effluents, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with granting of the proposed amendments.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed amendments involve systems located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect non-radiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Because the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendments. This would not reduce environmental impacts associated with Catawba Nuclear Station operations, would result in reduced operational flexibility, and may add to the occupational radiation exposures.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2" (NUREG-0921), dated January 1983.

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 amendments.

Based upon the foregoing 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 action, see the request for amendments dated March 23, 1988, which is 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 Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of May 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:

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

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MRobb
5/19/88

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PM:PDII-3
KJabbour:pw
5/19/88

changes made
OGC/WF
5/17/88
5/12/88

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D:PDII-3
DBMatthews
5/18/88

subject to noted changes in EA *jay*

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Docket File
PD II-3 Reading
MRood
KJabbour

May 19, 1988

DOCKET NO.s. 50-413
50-414

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rules and Procedures Branch
Division of Rules and Records
Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (Duke Power Company, et al)

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is enclosed for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies (5) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s); Time for Submission of Views on Antitrust Matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License.
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- Order.
- Exemption.
- Notice of Granting Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Other: _____

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

Contact: Marilee Rood
Phone: 21487

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| OFFICE | PD II-3 | | | | | | |
| SURNAME | MRood | | | | | | |
| DATE | 5/19/88 | | | | | | |