

Mr. Gary R. Peterson
 Site Vice President
 Catawba Nuclear Station
 Duke Energy Corporation
 4800 Concord Road
 York, South Carolina 29745-9635

April 27, 1998

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA1111 AND MA1112)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 165 to Facility Operating License NPF-35 and Amendment No. 157 to Facility Operating License NPF-52 for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The amendments are in response to your application dated March 3, 1998.

The amendments revise Section 6.2.3.2 of the Technical Specifications of each unit, changing the qualification requirements for members of the Safety Review Group.

A copy of the related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. A Notice of Issuance of Amendments will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,
 ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager
 Project Directorate II-2
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 165 to NPF-35
2. Amendment No. 157 to NPF-52
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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NAME	P. Tam	L. Berry	W. Young	H. Berkow		
DATE	4/9/98	4/9/98	4/17/98	4/21/98	1/198	1/198
COPY	YES NO	YES	YES NO	YES NO		

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 27, 1998

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Site Vice President
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Duke Energy Corporation
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter S. Tam".

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc w/encs: See next page

Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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**Richard M. Fry, Director
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Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721**



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION
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. 165
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 Energy Corporation, acting for itself, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and Saluda River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (licensees), dated March 3, 1998, 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.

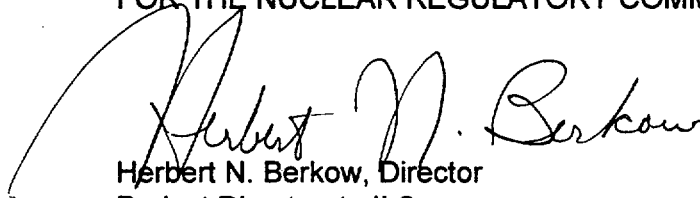
2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by page changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-35 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 165, which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. Duke Energy Corporation shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: April 27, 1998

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO.165

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-35

DOCKET NO. 50-413

Replace the following page of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

6-5

Insert

6-5

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

6.2.3 CATAWBA SAFETY REVIEW GROUP

FUNCTION

6.2.3.1 The Catawba Safety Review Group (SRG) shall function to provide the review of plant design and operating experience for potential opportunities to improve plant safety; evaluation of plant operations and maintenance activities; and, to advise management on the overall quality and safety of plant operations. The SRG shall make recommendations for revised procedures, equipment modifications, or other means of improving plant safety to appropriate station/corporate management.

COMPOSITION

6.2.3.2 The SRG shall be composed of at least five individuals. Each individual shall have either:

- a. A bachelor's degree in engineering or related science and at least 2 years professional level experience in his/her field, at least 1 year of which experience shall be in the nuclear field; or
- b. At least 15 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 10 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field, at least 3 years of which nuclear experience shall be supervisory/managerial experience in Engineering, and shall hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license; or
- c. At least 5 years of nuclear experience and hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license; or
- d. At least 8 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 5 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field.

A minimum of two of these individuals shall have the qualifications specified in 6.2.3.2a provided that at least one individual has the qualifications 6.2.3.2b. Otherwise, a minimum of three of these individuals shall have the qualifications specified in 6.2.3.2a.

RESPONSIBILITIES

6.2.3.3 The SRG shall be responsible for:

- a. Review of selected plant operating characteristics and other appropriate sources of plant design and operating experience information for awareness and incorporation into the performance of other duties.
- b. Review of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken as a result of the evaluation of selected plant operating characteristics and other appropriate sources of plant design and operating experience information.
- c. Review of selected programs, procedures, and plant activities, including maintenance, modification, operational problems, and operational analysis.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

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. 157
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 Energy Corporation, acting for itself, North Carolina Municipal Power Agency No. 1 and Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (licensees), dated March 3, 1998, 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.

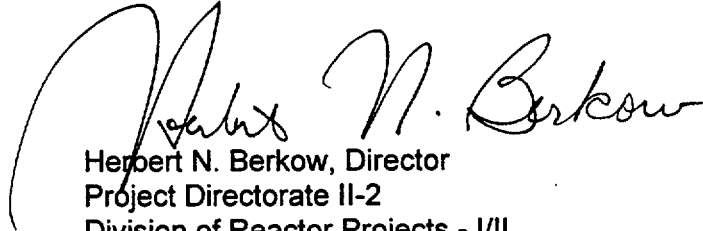
2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by page changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-52 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 157 , which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated into this license. Duke Energy Corporation shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Technical Specification
Changes

Date of Issuance: April 27, 1998

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 157

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-52

DOCKET NO. 50-414

Replace the following page of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains vertical lines indicating the areas of change.

Remove

Insert

6-5

6-5

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

6.2.3 CATAWBA SAFETY REVIEW GROUP

FUNCTION

6.2.3.1 The Catawba Safety Review Group (SRG) shall function to provide the review of plant design and operating experience for potential opportunities to improve plant safety; evaluation of plant operations and maintenance activities; and, to advise management on the overall quality and safety of plant operations. The SRG shall make recommendations for revised procedures, equipment modifications, or other means of improving plant safety to appropriate station/corporate management.

COMPOSITION

6.2.3.2 The SRG shall be composed of at least five individuals. Each individual shall have either:

- a. A bachelor's degree in engineering or related science and at least 2 years professional level experience in his/her field, at least 1 year of which experience shall be in the nuclear field; or
- b. At least 15 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 10 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field, at least 3 years of which nuclear experience shall be supervisory/managerial experience in Engineering, and shall hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license; or
- c. At least 5 years of nuclear experience and hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license; or
- d. At least 8 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 5 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field.

A minimum of two of these individuals shall have the qualifications specified in 6.2.3.2a provided that at least one individual has the qualifications 6.2.3.2b. Otherwise, a minimum of three of these individuals shall have the qualifications specified in 6.2.3.2a.

RESPONSIBILITIES

6.2.3.3 The SRG shall be responsible for:

- a. Review of selected plant operating characteristics and other appropriate sources of plant design and operating experience information for awareness and incorporation into the performance of other duties.
- b. Review of the effectiveness of corrective actions taken as a result of the evaluation of selected plant operating characteristics and other appropriate sources of plant design and operating experience information.
- c. Review of selected programs, procedures, and plant activities, including maintenance, modification, operational problems, and operational analysis.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 165 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-35
AND AMENDMENT NO. 157 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION, ET AL.

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated March 3, 1998, Duke Energy Corporation, et al. (the licensee) submitted a request for changes to the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The requested change would revise TS 6.2.3.2, which specifies the qualification requirements for members of the Catawba Safety Review Group (SRG). The Catawba SRG was established to meet the requirements of NUREG-0737, Item I.B.1.2, "Independent Safety Engineering Group." Subsequent changes by license amendments dated August 20, 1990, and May 7, 1992, led to the the current version of the TS requirement:

6.2.3.2 The SRG shall be composed of at least five individuals and at least three of these shall have a bachelor's degree in engineering or related science and at least 2 years professional level experience in his/her field, at least 1 year of which experience shall be in the nuclear field.

The remaining individuals in the SRG shall have either (1) at least 5 years of nuclear experience and hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license; or (2) at least 8 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 5 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field.

The licensee proposed that the entire requirement be revised as follows:

6.2.3.2 The SRG shall be composed of at least five individuals. Each individual shall have either:

- a. A bachelor's degree in engineering or related science and at least 2 years professional level experience in his/her field, at least 1 year of which experience shall be in the nuclear field; or

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- b. *At least 15 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 10 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field, at least 3 years of which nuclear experience shall be supervisory/managerial experience in Engineering, and shall hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license;*
- c. At least 5 years of nuclear experience and hold or have held a Senior Reactor Operator license; or
- d. At least 8 years of professional level experience in his/her field, at least 5 years of which experience shall be in the nuclear field.

A minimum of two of these individuals shall have the qualifications specified in 6.2.3.2a provided that at least one individual has the qualifications 6.2.3.2b. Otherwise, a minimum of three of these individuals shall have the qualifications specified in 6.2.3.2a.

The TS has been reformatted to list items (a) - (d). Items (1) and (2) of the second paragraph (regarding the "remaining individuals") of the current TS would only be changed editorially to Items (c) and (d) of the proposed new requirement.

The requirement for three degreed individuals in the first paragraph of the current TS 6.2.3.2 would be changed such that two of them would meet the current degreed requirement; this is stated in paragraph a of the revised TS 6.2.3.2. The third individual could meet, as an alternative, the requirement stated in paragraph b. The revised requirements, italicized above to highlight the changes, also limit to only one individual meeting the requirement of paragraph b. The italicized wording above is the subject of the evaluation below.

2.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

The regulatory position regarding the composition of the independent safety engineering group, as stated in NUREG-0737, is that it is an independent group of a minimum of five dedicated full-time engineers. The principal function of this group is to examine plant characteristics, NRC issuances, Licensing Information Service advisories, and other appropriate sources of plant design and operating experience information that may indicate areas for improving plant safety.

As further delineated by NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan," Section 13.4, levels of individuals performing this function shall meet or exceed that described in Section 4.4 of ANSI 3.1; i.e., a bachelor's degree in engineering, and 2 to 4 years experience in their field, including 1 to 2 years nuclear experience, as required by the current first paragraph of TS 6.2.3.2 (that paragraph has become paragraph a. of the proposed TS 6.2.3.2).

The staff has previously approved alternatives to the education requirements of ANSI 3.1, as evidenced by the current TS 6.2.3.2. The main difference in the alternative proposed herein is that the third individual constituting the required SRG majority would no longer be required to "hold a bachelor's degree in engineering or related science."

In the technical justification supporting the proposed alternative, the licensee maintains that an individual meeting the proposed requirements would have the depth of knowledge and insight into all facets of station operation to effectively carry out the SRG function. In particular, engineering experience would provide a good understanding of the design control process and associated programs; the Senior Reactor Operator license would evidence a good understanding of the various technical aspects of plant operation. In addition, supervisory/managerial engineering experience would provide firsthand experience in overseeing a broad range of design and operational programs, procedures, and plant activities.

In the course of acquiring the required 15 years of experience, 10 of which involve the nuclear field, the individual would likely have held several different positions within a nuclear organization. This experience would enhance the individual's understanding of the various programs and procedures important to plant operation and facilitate the individual's review of plant programs for effectiveness, investigation of events and other occurrences, identification of potential improvements, and recommendation of appropriate corrective actions.

The staff finds that the proposed requirements for SRG members provide a reasonable alternative to the bachelor of science requirement and satisfies the intent of NUREG-0737 in ensuring that the individual can carry out the independent safety engineering function. The proposed alternate requirements are more stringent than the two alternate requirements already approved for TS 6.2.3.2 and can be considered equivalent to a bachelor's degree in engineering or related science for constituting the required three-member majority, as required by the first paragraph of the current TS 6.2.3.2.

Based on the considerations previously described, the staff concludes that the proposed revision to TS 6.2.3.2, specifying SRG qualification requirements and renumbering the items, is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the South Carolina State official, Mr. Virgil Autrey, was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has 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, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributors: Kenneth C. Heck

Date: April 27, 1998