April 15, 1998

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

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE OPERATING LICENSES (TAC NOS. MA0359 AND MA0360)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request for amendment dated December 18, 1997, which was supplemented by your letter dated January 26, 1998, that would revise the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, operating licenses to delete license conditions that have been fulfilled, to delete exemptions that have expired, to update information to reflect current plant status and regulatory requirements, and to make other corrections and editorial changes. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

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

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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COPY	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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

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cc w/encl: See next page

Catawba Nuclear Station

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION, ET AL.

DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-35 and NPF-52, issued to Duke Energy Corporation, 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 proposed action would amend the Facility Operating Licenses (FOLs) for Units 1 and 2 and to delete license conditions that have been fulfilled, delete exemptions that are no longer needed, correct errors, and make other administrative and editorial changes.

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated December 18, 1997, and revised by letter dated January 26, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

When the FOLs, NPF-35 and NPF-52, were issued to the licensee, the NRC staff deemed certain issues essential to safety and/or essential to meeting certain regulatory interests. These issues were imposed as license conditions in the FOLs, with deadlines for their implementation. Since the units were licensed to operate in the 1980s, most of these

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license conditions have been fulfilled. For the license conditions that have been fulfilled, the licensee proposed to have them deleted from the FOLs.

The FOLs also included a number of exemptions from NRC regulations. The licensee stated that these exemptions have either expired, or are no longer needed since the units are in full compliance with the respective regulations. The licensee proposed to delete these exemptions from the FOLs.

The licensee also proposed to make changes to correct administrative errors such as words inadvertently omitted, documents erroneously cited, etc.

The proposed amendments involve administrative changes to the FOLs only. No actual plant equipment, regulatory requirements, operating practices, or analyses are affected by these proposed amendments.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there is no significant environmental impact if the amendments are granted. No changes will be made to the design and licensing bases, and applicable procedures at the two units at Catawba Nuclear Station will remain the same. Other than the administrative changes, no other changes will be made to the FOLs, including the Technical Specifications.

The changes will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the

Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does did not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to the Catawba Nuclear Station.

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on April 1, 1998, the staff consulted with the South Carolina State official, Virgil Autrey of the Bureau of Radiological Health, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed amendments. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed amendments will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendments.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's request for the amendments dated December 18, 1997, and revised by letter dated January 26, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The

Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington DC, and at the local public document room located at the York County Library, 138 East Black Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of April 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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