

December 28, 1988

Docket No.: 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. 50 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52  
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2 (TAC 69507)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 50 to Facility Operating License NPF-52 for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2. The amendment is being issued in response to your application dated September 14, 1988.

The amendment revises license condition 2.C.(8)(b) to allow an extension of time for resolution of the Safety Parameter Display System issue.

A copy of the related safety evaluation supporting Amendment No. 50 to Facility Operating License NPF-52 is enclosed.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 50 to NPF-52
2. Safety Evaluation

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Mr. H. B. Tucker  
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Catawba Nuclear Station

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DATED: December 28, 1988

AMENDMENT NO. 50 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 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.  
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 September 14, 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 amended to read as follows:

A. Change paragraph 2.C.(8)(b) to read as follows:

Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS) (Section 18, SSER #5)

Prior to December 8, 1989, Duke Power Company shall add to the existing SPDS and have operational the following SPDS parameters: (a) residual heat removal flow, (b) containment isolation status, (c) stack radiation measurements, and (d) steam generator or steamline radiation. The actual value of these and all other SPDS variables should be displayed for operator viewing in easily and rapidly accessible display formats.

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

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Lawrence P. Crocker for

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

Date of Issuance: December 28, 1988

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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

AND AMENDMENT NO. TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NPF-52

DUKE POWER COMPANY, ET AL.

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-414

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 14, 1988, Duke Power Company, et al., (the licensee) proposed that License Condition 2.C.(8)(b) of Catawba Unit 2 Facility Operating License NPF-52 be amended to allow an extension of time for the resolution of the Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS) issue. The extension would be for a period of approximately 10 months (from the completion of Unit 2 second refueling outage until December 8, 1989).

2.0 EVALUATION

Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737 required licensees to install an SPDS which provides a concise display of critical plant variables to control room operators to aid them in rapidly and reliably determining the safety status of the plant.

In February 1986, the NRC staff issued the low-power Facility Operating License, NPF-48, for Catawba Unit 2 along with Supplement 5 to the Safety Evaluation Report. Supplement 5 concluded that the Catawba SPDS does not fully meet the applicable requirements of Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737, but did not identify any serious safety concerns with the existing system. Thus, the staff concluded that the Catawba SPDS may be operated as an interim implementation until startup following the first refueling outage.

The SER identified five parameters and the backup display as modifications needing to be made to the Catawba SPDS. These requirements were imposed as License Condition 2.C.(9)(b) of the low-power Facility Operating License, NPF-48, and later as License Condition 2.C.(8)(b) in the full-power Facility Operating License, NPF-52.

On March 25, 1986, the licensee identified the requested changes as a plant-specific backfit and requested that the NRC staff prepare a backfit analysis. By letter dated June 13, 1986, the staff denied the licensee's backfit claim. On March 26, 1987, the licensee appealed the staff's denial of the backfit claim. By letter dated September 4, 1987, the staff concluded that 4 of the 5 parameters identified in Supplement 5 along with the backup displays should be added. One of the five parameters previously required, hot leg temperature, was already included as an input into SPDS.

By letter dated December 4, 1987, the licensee proposed that License Condition 2.C.(8)(b) of Catawba Unit 2 Facility Operating License NPF-52 be amended to (1) allow an extension of time for the resolution of the SPDS issue, and (2) make it consistent with NRC staff's conclusions contained in the September 4, 1987 letter. On February 16, 1988, the staff approved the requested extension for one complete cycle of operation by the issuance of license amendment No. 32 for Catawba Unit 2.

By letter dated February 18, 1988, the licensee submitted a proposed final resolution of this issue. By letter dated May 13, 1988, the NRC staff accepted the licensee's proposal.

The SPDS is not a safety-grade system and is not intended to fulfill the post-accident monitoring requirements of Regulatory Guide 1.97. All parameters, including the additional parameters, are already provided in the control room. Therefore, the staff concludes that extension of the date for modification of the Catawba Unit 2 SPDS until December 8, 1989, is acceptable because it does not involve any adverse safety considerations.

Based on the above discussion, the modified License Condition 2.C.(8)(b) would state that:

"Prior to December 8, 1989, Duke Power Company shall add to the existing SPDS and have operational the following SPDS parameters: (a) residual heat removal flow, (b) containment isolation status, (c) stack radiation measurements, and (d) steam generator or steamline radiation. The actual value of these and all other SPDS variables should be displayed for operator viewing in easily and rapidly accessible display formats."

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves changes to use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendment involves 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 amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendment meets 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 the amendment.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission made a proposed determination that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration which was published in the Federal Register (53 FR 40984) on October 19, 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 the amendment 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: December 28, 1988