

May 21, 1997

Mr. M. S. Tuckman
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
RELATED TO ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4), CATAWBA AND
MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATIONS (TAC M98043, M98044, M98100, AND M98101)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request dated February 24, 1997, for an exemption for the Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS), Units 1 and 2, and McGuire Nuclear Station (MNS), Units 1 and 2, from a requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) to submit updates to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) 6 months after each refueling outage. This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369,
and 50-370

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Herbert N. Berkow", is written over a large, stylized, light-colored mark that resembles a large "H" or a checkmark.

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

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369,
and 50-370

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

McGuire Nuclear Station
Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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McGuire Nuclear Station
Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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Heinz Mueller (5)
Environmental Review Coordinator
345 Courtland Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30365

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-369 AND 50-370

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-35, NPF-52, NPF-9, and NPF-17. These licenses are issued to Duke Power Company (the licensee) for operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2, located in York County, South Carolina, and the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in response to the licensee's application dated February 24, 1997, for exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) regarding submission of revisions to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) and design change reports for facility changes made under 10 CFR 50.59 for the Catawba and McGuire nuclear stations. Under the proposed exemption, the licensee would schedule updates to the single, unified UFSAR for each of its two-unit sites based on the refueling cycle of Unit 2 of each station.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Section 50.71(e)(4) requires licensees to submit updates to their FSAR within 6 months after each refueling outage providing that the interval between successive updates does not exceed 24 months. Since Units 1 and 2 of Catawba and McGuire nuclear stations share a common UFSAR, the licensee must update the same document within 6 months after a refueling outage for either unit. Allowing the exemption would maintain the UFSAR current within 24 months of the last revision and still would not exceed a 24-month interval for submission of the 10 CFR 50.59 design change report for either unit.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any radiological effluent that may be released off site. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission concludes that granting the proposed exemption would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. The Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the exemption would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed exemption and this alternative are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

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

Agencies and Persons Contacted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on May 13, 1997, the staff consulted with the South Carolina and North Carolina State officials, respectively, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State officials had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

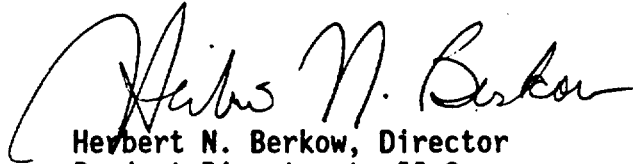
Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for the exemption dated February 24, 1997, which is 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 rooms located at the York County Library, 138 East Black Street, Rock Hill,

South Carolina 29730 for the Catawba Nuclear Station; and the J. Murrey Atkins Library, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina 28223 for the McGuire Nuclear Station.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 21st day of May 1997

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Herb N. Berkow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and a long, sweeping underline.

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