

August 14, 2002

Mr. M. S. Tuckman
Executive Vice-President
Nuclear Generation
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: MCGUIRE, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND CATAWBA, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE
RENEWAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT WITH OPEN ITEMS

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

By a letter dated June 13, 2001, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for renewal of the McGuire Units 1 and 2, and Catawba Units 1 and 2, operating licenses for up to an additional 20 years. The license renewal application (LRA) was submitted pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 54. The NRC determined that the LRA was complete and acceptable for docketing on August 8, 2001. The NRC staff has reviewed the LRA and developed the enclosed "Safety Evaluation Report with open items for McGuire Units 1 and 2, and Catawba Units 1 and 2," hereafter referred to as the SER, August 2002. This SER reflects the status of the staff's review of the LRA, requests for additional information and clarification, and Duke's responses to the NRC staff's requests through July 9, 2002, unless otherwise noted. Issuance of the enclosed SER is an important milestone for both the applicant and the staff.

The NRC staff has identified open items as well as confirmatory items in its review that must be resolved before it can make a final determination on the application. These open items, the majority of which were previously discussed with your staff, are summarized in Section 1.4 of the SER. This section also includes a listing of confirmatory items with an explanation of the information required to resolve them. To close these items, the staff needs the additional information identified in the SER.

In accordance with the schedule for completing the review of the McGuire and Catawba renewal applications, the applicant is requested to review the enclosed SER, verify its accuracy, provide comments, and respond to the open and confirmatory items by October 27, 2002. The NRC staff also plans to review the format of this SER to further improve its content while incorporating the applicant's responses. A complete and revised SER will be issued by January 6, 2002.

The staff is committed to completing the review of the McGuire and Catawba LRA in a timely manner and will continue to look for opportunities to improve the schedule. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the project manager, Rani Franovich, at 301-415-1868.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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