

December 8, 2002

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

SUBJECT: FINAL SUPPLEMENT 9 TO THE GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT (GEIS) REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THE CATAWBA
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB2031 AND MB2032)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed the plant-specific Supplement 9 to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," regarding the renewal of operating licenses NPF-35 and NPF-52 for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, for up to an additional 20 years of operation. Enclosed is a copy of the report.

As discussed in Section 9.3 of this report, the staff recommends that the Commission determine that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable. This recommendation is based on (1) the analysis and findings in the GEIS; (2) the Environmental Report submitted by Duke; (3) consultation with Federal, State, and local agencies; (4) the staff's own independent review; and (5) the staff's consideration of public comments.

The report will be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a notice of availability will be subsequently published by the EPA in the *Federal Register*. A separate notice of availability will also be published in an upcoming *Federal Register* notice by the NRC. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (301) 415-1108.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Docket Nos.: 50-413 and 50-414

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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*See previous concurrence

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