

December 24, 2002

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

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

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

Enclosed is a copy of the *Federal Register* Notice of Availability for the final plant-specific Supplement 9 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating licenses NPF-35 and NPF-52 for up to an additional 20 years of operation at Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The notice advises the public that the final report is available electronically for public inspection in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NRC environmental project manager, Mr. James H. Wilson, at (301) 415-1108.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos.: 50-413 and 50-414

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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*See previous concurrence

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DATE	12/09/02	12/09/02	12/09/02	12/24/02	12/12/02

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION

DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL SUPPLEMENT 9 TO THE GENERIC

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL

FOR THE CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has published a final plant-specific supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating licenses NPF-35 and NPF-52 for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20 years of operation. The Catawba Nuclear Station units are located in York County, South Carolina. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative methods of power generation.

As discussed in Section 9.3 of this final Supplement 9 to the GEIS, 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 final Supplement 9 to the GEIS is available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Mr. James H. Wilson, License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555. Mr. Wilson may be contacted at 301-415-1108 or by writing to James H. Wilson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop O 12-D-1.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 24th day of December, 2002.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

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

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