



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, DC 20555-0001

5/31/02
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(3)

**SUBJECT: Generic Final Environmental Impact Statement for
License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 9
Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2
CEQ No. 020533**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the document entitled, "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Regarding the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2, Supplement 9," NUREG-1437 (FGSEIS). We appreciate your compliance with the disclosure and public access aspects of the NEPA process. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the results of our review of the document.

Rad waste, which is usually considered a "low volume waste stream," is any waste stream (i.e., ion exchange regenerate, etc.), that has a radioactive component. EPA Region 4's review of this FGSEIS found no issues related to nuclear or environmental radiation which were significant enough to comment on, or to ask for clarification. However, EPA does not regulate the radioactive component of any waste streams; that is the responsibility of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC regulates the alpha, beta, and gamma radioactivity of all the waste streams at nuclear plants.

We appreciate your responses to our comments on the Draft GSEIS, which were included in the Appendices of the FGSEIS. Comments regarding anticipated power demands, groundwater use, and noise levels were sufficiently answered. Based on the sufficiency of information, alternatives evaluation, and potential environmental impacts over which EPA has authority, the document provides a reasonable analysis of the proposed action and alternatives. The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposed action.

E-RIDS = ADM-03

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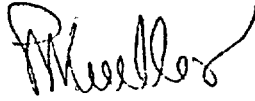
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Memorandum = ADM-013

See = J.H. Wilson (JHW1)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments regarding this project. If you have any questions, you may contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mueller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
Office of Environmental Assessment