



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

May 15, 2003

Duke Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. G. R. Peterson
Site Vice President
Catawba Site
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

**SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION - REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR
OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS 50-413/2003-301 AND 50-414/2003-301**

Dear Mr. Peterson:

During the period March 31 to April 16, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating examinations to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Catawba Nuclear Station. At the conclusion of the examination, the examiners discussed the examination questions and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on April 10, 2003.

All fourteen applicants passed the examinations. There were no post examination comments.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 562-4638.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414
License Nos. NPF-35, NPF-52

Enclosure: (See page 2)

Enclosure: Report Detail

cc w/encl:

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 50-413, 50-414

License Nos.: NPF-35, NPF-52

Report Nos.: 50-413/03-301, 50-414/03-301

Licensee: Duke Energy Corporation (DEC)

Facility: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2

Location: 4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

Dates: Operating Tests - March 31 to April 16, 2003
Written Examination - April 10, 2003

Examiners: E. Lea, Chief Examiner
R. Aiello, Senior Operations Engineer
G. Laska, Operations Engineer

Approved by: M. Ernstes, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000413/2003-301, ER 05000414/2003-301; Duke Power Corporation; on 3/31 - 4/16/2003; Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC examiners conducted operator licensing initial examinations in accordance with the guidance in NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9, Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors. This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements of 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period March 31 to April 16, 2003. Members of the Catawba Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on April 10, 2003. The written examinations and the operating tests were developed by the Catawba Nuclear Station. All applicants, five Reactor Operators (RO) and nine Senior Reactor Operators (SRO) passed both the operating and written examinations. All applicants were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

No significant issues were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The licensee developed the written and operating examinations in accordance with the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9.

The examiners reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations to ensure examination security and integrity complied with 10 CFR 55.49, Integrity of examinations and tests.

The examiners evaluated five Reactor Operator (RO) and nine Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests during the period March 31 to April 16, 2003. Members of the Catawba Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on April 10, 2003. The evaluations of the applicants and review of documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Catawba Nuclear Station, met requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

All applicants passed the examination. The licensee did not submit any post examination comments concerning the written examination. The RO and SRO written examinations and answer keys, combined RO/SRO examination and examination references may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML031250632, ML031250641 and ML031250637).

4OA6 Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

On April 16, 2003, the examination team discussed generic issues with Mr. G. R. Peterson and members of his staff.

The inspectors asked the licensee whether any materials examined during the inspection should be considered proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

- G. Peterson, Catawba Site Vice President
- M. Glover, Station Manager
- G. Gilbert, Regulatory Compliance Manager
- G. Hamilton, Operations Training Manager
- L. Keller, Safety Review Group Manager
- B. Pitesa, Training Manager
- G. Strickland, Regulatory Compliance Specialist

NRC

- E. Guthrie, Senior Resident Inspector