June 24, 2003

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

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, RE: TOPICAL REPORT DPC-NF-2010, NUCLEAR PHYSICS METHODOLOGY FOR RELOAD DESIGN, REVISION 2

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed your letter dated November 19, 2002, that proposed a revision to the Duke Power Topical Report, DPC-NF-2010, "Nuclear Physics Methodology for Reload Design," Revision 2. Specifically, you proposed to delete the sentence in Section 3.2 of the Topical Report that states: "A secondary data source for the core simulator are estimates of fuel pellet volume averaged temperatures which are calculated by fuel performance codes as a function of power and burnup." Your letter proposed to delete this sentence to avoid the implication that the fuel temperature data needed for core neutronics calculations is based on specific fuel performance code calculations such as would be obtained from the COMETHE-IIIK or TACO-2 codes. You stated that other fuel temperature data may be available that are better suited for core neutronics calculations.

The NRC staff has reviewed the change to the Topical Report that was proposed in your letter dated November 19, 2002, and finds that it does not impact or change any of the conclusions made in our most recent Safety Evaluation of this Topical Report. The subject Safety Evaluation was issued with Amendment Nos. 208 and 189 to the McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 Facility Operating Licenses, respectively, on October 1, 2002. Therefore, the NRC staff determined the proposed change to be acceptable.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

cc: See next page

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Project Directorate II
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