

August 13, 2003

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

SUBJECT: WILLIAM B. MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND CATAWBA  
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: MIXED OXIDE LEAD FUEL  
ASSEMBLIES (TAC NOS. MB7863, MB7864, MB7865, AND MB7866)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

By letter dated February 27, 2003, you submitted applications for amendment to the operating licenses for McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 and Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications to allow the use of four mixed oxide fuel assemblies at either the Catawba or McGuire station. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed the information provided and has determined that additional information is required as identified in the Enclosure.

We discussed these questions with your staff on August 13, 2003. Your staff indicated that a response to these issues could be provided by September 30, 2003. Please contact me at (301) 415-1493, if you have any other questions on these issues.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate II  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
ON APPLICATION FOR MOX LEAD TEST ASSEMBLIES

DUKE POWER COMPANY

WILLIAM B. MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-369 AND 50-370

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-413 AND 50-414

1. Section 3.5.4, "Quality Assurance," states, in part, that "Framatome ANP has the responsibility for the overall Quality Assurance (QA) oversight of the entire fuel assembly fabrication process" and that "Framatome ANP ultimately has the responsibility for certification of the finished fuel assemblies to Duke Power, thru DCS."
  - A. Given this oversight role of Framatome ANP, please describe the complete QA oversight process to be employed for the fuel fabrication process. Also, provide a copy of the relevant QA program and process plan to be implemented for that purpose.
  - B. Is a QA plan for assembly and certification of the fuel rods and assemblies being developed specifically for those activities?
2. Section 3.5.4, "Quality Assurance," states, in part, that "every sub-vendor who operates under the technical requirements by Framatome ANP will be qualified by Framatome ANP as an approved supplier."
  - A. Please identify the sub-vendors to be used for this effort. Will all sub-vendors operate under the technical requirements of Framatome ANP? If not, what alternate technical requirements will they use and how will they be qualified?
  - B. Please identify the manufacturer(s) of the fuel rods and assemblies, and the locations of manufacture of these components. Provide a detailed schedule for the manufacture of the fuel rods and assemblies. Is the manufacturer(s) required to perform its fabrication activities in accordance with the Framatome ANP QA program or is an alternate QA program(s) going to be used?
3. Section 3.5.4, "Quality Assurance," states, in part, that "Framatome ANP will verify that each of these vendors/facilities meets the requirements of 10 CFR 50 Appendix B. This verification may include quality system audits by Framatome ANP, review of audits performed by other Framatome ANP facilities from other regions, and/or surveillance audits by other approved Framatome ANP quality auditors."

- A. Please describe to what extent these three applicable review processes will be implemented to support the entire fuel rod and assembly fabrication process and the ultimate certification of the finished fuel.
- B. Please describe the method(s) to be use to identify, document, and resolve any discrepancies identified with the vendors/facilities as a result of the various verification processes described.
- C. Please describe how the results of these verification activities will be documented and retained in an auditable and retrievable manner.
- D. Will the reporting requirements of 10 CFR Part 21 be imposed on each of the vendors/facilities?

McGuire Nuclear Station  
Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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