

August 7, 2003

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTENTION: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Duke Energy Corporation  
McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370  
60 Day Response to NRC Generic Letter 2003-01:  
Control Room Habitability

On June 12, 2003, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 2003-01 concerning Control Room habitability. The NRC issued the Generic Letter to alert addressees to findings at U.S. power reactor facilities suggesting that the Control Room licensing and design bases, and applicable regulatory requirements may not be met, and that Technical Specification surveillance requirements may not be adequate. Also, the Generic Letter emphasizes the importance of reliable, comprehensive surveillance testing to verify Control Room habitability.

Pursuant to NRC GL 2003-01, if an addressee cannot provide the Requested Information within 180 days of issuance, then the addressee should submit a written response indicating this within 60 days of issuance. The response should address any alternative course of action proposed including the basis for the acceptability of the proposed alternative course of action and the schedule for completing these actions. Accordingly, please find below McGuire Nuclear Station's (McGuire) 60 day response.

McGuire expects to complete the GL 2003-01 Requested Information within the 180 day time frame with the exception of the final test report and evaluation of the Control Room envelope ASTM E741 tracer gas test. As part of the scope of the work to be performed, McGuire plans to update the previously performed hazardous chemical analysis. In addition, McGuire's vendor-supported tracer gas test is currently scheduled for the last week of October, 2003. After completion of the testing, the testing vendor and site engineering will require several weeks to analyze and

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compile the test results. Any schedule delays or complications would challenge McGuire's ability to meet the 180 day response date of December 9, 2003. Therefore, as stipulated by GL 2003-01, McGuire is providing this interim 60 day response and intends to provide the Requested Information by February 20, 2004.

This best effort schedule is designed to complete the technical assessment work and the draft licensing, programmatic, and system performance evaluations before the requested response date of December 9, 2003. If any corrective actions are necessary as a result of these evaluations, such action will be initiated upon identification and will be implemented in a timely manner. Therefore, although the documentation delivery will be delayed to assure accuracy and completeness, this delay should not result in any significant effect on overall plant safety.

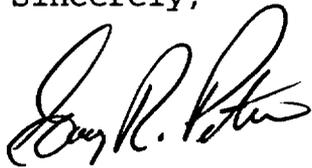
Duke Energy has been actively involved in the industry efforts to improve Control Room habitability assessment, testing, and evaluation. Duke Energy has provided expertise and leadership to the NEI Control Room Habitability Task Force in ventilation systems engineering, site meteorology and hazardous chemical assessment, and radiological assessment and analysis, working to develop and disseminate guidance in NEI 99-03, Rev. 1 and interacting with the NRC staff on related NRC regulatory guidance. The industry and the NRC have benefited from these activities to develop programs and processes that are being used to address these issues in response to this Generic Letter.

This McGuire response is part of an overall Duke Energy program designed to address Control Room habitability issues for each of our plant sites, which includes testing, licensing analysis, and Technical Specification changes for each plant site. Control Room envelope tracer gas testing for Oconee was first completed in 1998 and then repeated in 2001 following work to seal and repair identified ductwork and equipment vulnerabilities. Also, an Oconee Alternative Source Term (AST) License Amendment Request (LAR) was submitted in October 2001. Tracer gas testing and Integrated Component testing for Catawba Nuclear Station was performed in 2001 and 2002 and a Catawba AST LAR was submitted in November 2002. Duke Energy's successful experiences at Oconee and Catawba regarding testing and analysis are being applied to the McGuire Control Room habitability program. As described above, testing and analysis in preparation to support the subsequent McGuire AST LAR is in progress.

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Inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to Lee A.  
Hentz at 704-875-4187.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "G".

Gary R. Peterson

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cc:

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