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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2; Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414
McGuire Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2; Docket Nos. 50-369, 50-370
Topical Report DPC-NE-1005P, Revision 0, *Nuclear Design Methodology Using CASMO-4/SIMULATE-3 MOX (Proprietary)*

References: (1) Letter, Martin, R. E. (U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission), to Canady, K. S. (Duke Power), July 14, 2003.
(2) Letter, Canady, K. S. (Duke) to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, August 3, 2001.
(3) Letter, Martin, R.E., (U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission), to Canady, K. S., July 29, 2002.
(4) Letter, Canady, K. S. (Duke), to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, September 12, 2002.
(5) Letter, Canady, K. S. (Duke), to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, November 12, 2002.
(6) Letter, Tuckman, M. S. (Duke), to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, June 26, 2003.

Duke Power (Duke) is in receipt of your Reference 1 letter which states that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has closed the TAC numbers for the review of the subject topical report. This letter also states that the topical report review has been integrated into the review of the MOX fuel lead assembly license amendment request.

Duke is concerned that this action suggests another major delay in the already protracted review of DPC-NE-1005P. Duke submitted the topical report to the NRC more than two years ago, with a request for a thirteen month review period. As stated in the cover letter of this submittal (Reference 2), Duke intends to apply the DPC-NE-1005P methodology "... initially for reactor physics calculations as part of the reload design process for uranium-fueled cores at McGuire and Catawba" and eventually "... to mixed cores containing uranium and MOX fuel." The first and only Request for Additional Information was sent on July 29, 2002 (Reference 3), nearly one year after the topical report was submitted. Duke responded to this Request for Additional

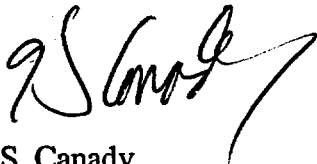
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Information in References 4 and 5. At NRC request a supplemental submittal was provided describing Duke's physics test plans for MOX fuel (Reference 6). To our knowledge there are no outstanding issues associated with the topical report review.

This fall Duke intends to begin designing a core containing MOX fuel lead assemblies, and such a core design requires the use of the DPC-NE-1005P methodology. It is requested that NRC complete its review of DPC-NE-1005P, thereby enabling Duke to take advantage of the capabilities and methodology improvements associated with the CASMO-4 and SIMULATE-3 MOX computer codes.

Very truly yours,



K. S. Canady

cc: Robert E. Martin
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