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October 1, 2003

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
Response to Request for Additional Information – Mixed Oxide Fuel Lead
Assemblies (TAC Nos. MB7863, MB7864, MB7865, MB7866)

Reference: 1) Nuclear Regulatory Commission Letter dated July 14, 2003, Request for
Additional Information Re: Mixed Oxide Lead Fuel Assemblies
2) Duke Energy Letter dated September 15, 2003, Mixed Oxide Fuel Lead
Assembly License Amendment Request (TAC Nos. MB7863, MB7864, MB7865,
MB7866)

In Reference 1 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Staff requested information concerning the behavior of the Boraflex neutron absorber in the McGuire spent fuel storage pools in the presence of mixed oxide (MOX) fuel assemblies. In Reference 2 Duke Energy (Duke) informed the NRC of its decision to focus the MOX fuel lead assembly program solely on Catawba Nuclear Station. This decision removes McGuire from consideration for irradiation of MOX fuel lead assemblies. The questions in Reference 1 are no longer relevant to Duke's license amendment request to use MOX fuel lead assemblies because Catawba does not use Boraflex neutron absorbers in its spent fuel pools; therefore, Duke will provide no additional information on this topic.

Inquiries on this matter should be directed to G. A. Copp at (704) 373-5620.

Very truly yours,

M. S. Tuckman

ADD

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Oath and Affirmation

M. S. Tuckman affirms that he is the person who subscribed his name to the foregoing statement, and that all the matters and facts set forth herein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

M. S. Tuckman

M.S. Tuckman

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 1st day of October, 2003

Mary P. Nelson
Notary Public

My Commission expires:

JAN 22, 2006
Date



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cc: R. E. Martin, NRC Senior Project Manager (O8G9)
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J. B. Brady
NRC Sr. Resident Inspector
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bcc: L. F. Vaughn – PB05E
S. P. Nesbit – EC09A
C. J. Thomas - MG01RC
M.T. Cash – EC05O
G. D. Gilbert – CN01RC
A. W. Cottingham – Winston & Strawn
NRIA File/ELL – EC05O
McGuire Master File – MG01DM
Catawba Master File 801.01 – CN04DM
Catawba RGC Date File (J.M Ferguson – CN01SA)
MOX File – 1607.3202