

December 24, 2003

Executive Vice President
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church St
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: MIXED OXIDE LEAD FUEL ASSEMBLIES
(TAC NOS. MB7863 AND MB7864)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

By letter dated October 1, 2003, you provided additional information on quality assurance (QA) for your application that was submitted on February 27, 2003, for amendments to the operating licenses for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications to allow the use of four mixed oxide (MOX) fuel assemblies at the Catawba station. The purpose of this letter is to request that a copy of the QA plan that your letter dated October 1, 2003, indicated was being developed specifically for assembly and certification of the MOX fuel rods and assemblies be provided for our review.

We discussed this issue with your staff on December 22, 2003. Your staff indicated that a response to the issue could be provided by January 30, 2004. Please contact me at (301) 415-1493, if you have any other questions on this issue.

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. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

December 24, 2003

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

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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