

March 3, 2004

Mr. W. R. McCollum, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Support
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: APPROVAL TO USE MORE RECENT INSERVICE INSPECTION
REQUIREMENTS FOR CATAWBA UNITS 1 AND 2, MCGUIRE UNIT 2, AND
OCONEE UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. MB9908, MB9909, MB9911, MB9912,
MB9913, AND MB9914)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

By letter dated July 1, 2003, you proposed to update the inservice inspection (ISI) programs at Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2, and Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. Specifically, you proposed to update the selected programs at the six units to qualify and certify nondestructive examination personnel in accordance with IWA-2300 of the 1995 Edition through the 1996 Addenda of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code utilizing CP-189, "Standard for Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel." IWA-2300 establishes the qualification requirements for nondestructive examination personnel and invokes the use of CP-189 as amended by the requirements of ASME Section XI.

As discussed in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, we have determined that the proposed update encompasses all related requirements of the respective edition and addenda. Therefore, we approve the proposed update for the remainder of the second 10-year ISI interval at McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2 and Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, and the remainder of the third 10-year ISI interval at Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Nakoski, Section Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-370, 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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As discussed in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, we have determined that the proposed update encompasses all related requirements of the respective edition and addenda. Therefore, we approve the proposed update for the remainder of the second 10-year ISI interval at McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2 and Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, and the remainder of the third 10-year ISI interval at Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3.

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
REQUESTS FOR RELIEF RELATED TO THE USE OF SELECTED PORTIONS OF
ASME CODE, SECTION XI, 1995 EDITION THROUGH 1996 ADDENDA
CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2
OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3
DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION
DOCKET NOS. 50-413, 50-414, 50-370, 50-269, 50-270, AND 50-287

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 1, 2003, Duke Energy Corporation (the licensee) proposed to update the inservice inspection (ISI) programs at Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2, and Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. Specifically, the licensee proposed to update the selected programs at the six units to qualify and certify nondestructive examination (NDE) personnel in accordance with IWA-2300 of the 1995 Edition through the 1996 Addenda of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code utilizing CP-189, "Standard for Qualification and Certification of Nondestructive Testing Personnel" (CP-189). IWA-2300 establishes the qualification requirements for NDE personnel and invokes the use of CP-189 as amended by the requirements of ASME Section XI.

Catawba, Units 1 and 2, and McGuire, Unit 2, are operating in their second 10-year ISI interval, and Oconee Units 1, 2, and 3, are operating in their third 10-year ISI interval. The ISI Code of record for all six units is the 1989 Edition of ASME Section XI.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

2.1 Licensee's Request for use of Later Edition of the Code

Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of *Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the licensee requested to use the 1995 Edition through the 1996 Addenda of ASME Section XI, IWA-2300, which references the 1991 Edition of CP-189. The request is for the remainder of the second 10-year ISI interval at McGuire, Unit 2, and Catawba, Units 1 and 2, and for the remainder of the third 10-year ISI interval at Oconee, Units 1, 2, and 3.

Enclosure

While the licensee requested relief pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the NRC staff concluded that this request was more appropriately considered under 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), which states, in part, that ISI of components may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b), subject to NRC approval. Portions of editions or addenda may be used provided that all related requirements of the respective editions and addenda are met. The 1995 Edition through the 1996 Addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code with accompanying limitations and modifications were incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) on September 22, 1999 (64 FR 51370).

2.2 Licensee's Review of All Related Requirements

The licensee stated that the 1989 Edition of ASME Section XI, IWA-2300, requires qualification of NDE personnel in accordance with a written practice developed in accordance with SNT-TC-1A, 1984 Edition, as amended by IWA-2300. The licensee stated that 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(C) requires implementation of the ASME Code, Section XI, Appendix VIII and the supplements to Appendix VIII of the 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda. The qualification and certification of ultrasonic examiners must be to the written program in accordance with ANSI/ASNT CP-189, 1991 Edition, as amended by IWA-2300. The licensee stated that it operates seven nuclear units, six of which are using the 1989 Edition of ASME Section XI and one, McGuire, Unit 1, is using the 1995 Edition with the 1996 Addenda.

This entails the preparation and implementation and, to the extent possible, consolidation of numerous certification requirements, some of which are in conflict. The licensee performed a direct comparison of the major implementation requirements of the 1984 Edition of SNT-TC-1A, as modified by IWA-2300 of the 1989 Edition of Section XI, with the 1991 Edition of CP-189, as modified by IWA-2300 of the 1995 Edition and 1996 Addenda of ASME Section XI. A table was provided by the licensee in the relief request.

The licensee stated that in lieu of maintaining redundant and possibly conflicting programs, the proposed alternative of maintaining a single program that meets the requirements of CP-189 for the qualification and certification of NDE personnel will simplify record keeping, will satisfy the need to maintain personnel qualification and certifications, will eliminate redundant systems, and will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety appropriate for other NDE disciplines.

2.3 Staff Evaluation

The NRC staff has reviewed the information in the licensee's letter dated July 1, 2003. The review determined that the qualification requirements for NDE personnel are contained in the portions of the ASME Code selected by the licensee for updating in the ISI programs at McGuire, Unit 2, Catawba, Units 1 and 2 and Oconee, Units 1, 2, and 3. Therefore, the licensee has appropriately evaluated all related requirements as they pertain to the proposed alternative. The NRC staff finds this to be acceptable.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Based upon the incorporation by reference of the 1995 Edition through the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code in 10 CFR 50.55a(b), and the licensee meeting all related ASME Code requirements, including applicable 10 CFR 50.55a(b) limitations and modifications to IWA-2300, the NRC staff concludes that the licensee's request to qualify and certify NDE personnel to

CP-189 for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2, and Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, to the 1995 Edition through the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code, IWA-2300, is acceptable. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), the licensee's request, as stated above, is approved for the remainder of the second 10-year intervals for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, McGuire Nuclear Station, Unit 2, and the third 10-year interval for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. All other ASME Code, Section XI requirements for which relief was not specifically requested and approved in this relief request remain applicable, including third party review by the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector.

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