

June 30, 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: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2, AND OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: RELIEF REQUEST (03-GO-006) (TAC NOS. MC0697, MC0698, MC0699, MC0700, MC0701, AND MC0702)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

By letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated September 8, 2003, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i), you requested the use of an alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Appendix I, I-2100, 1989 Edition with no addenda, for Catawba, Units 1 and 2, McGuire, Unit 2, and Oconee, Units 1, 2, and 3. The NRC staff has reviewed your submittal and has determined that additional information is required. Our questions are provided in the Enclosure. We discussed these questions with your staff on June 22, 2004. Your staff indicated that a response could be provided within 45 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please call me at (301) 415-1388.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

James J. Shea, Project Manager, 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: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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DATE	06/30/04	06/30/04	06/30/04

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RELIEF REQUEST 03-GO-006

CATAWBA, UNITS 1 AND 2, MCGUIRE, UNIT2, AND OCONEE UNITS 1, 2, AND 3

DOCKET NOS. 50-413, 50-414, 50-370, 50-269, 50-270, AND 50-287

1. Item I "System/Components for which the Alternative Applies" states under Category B-B (B2.11, B2.12) that shell-to-head welds are in the scope of the subject relief request. However, Item V, "Alternative Method for Ultrasonic Examination," stated that for head-to-shell welds where the ratio of the inside diameter to the outside diameter of the head prevents the 60° beam angle from intercepting the inside surface, the Performance Demonstration Initiative (PDI) qualified procedure will not be used. Please explain your examination method for the limiting case of head-to-shell welds that are in the scope of the relief request.
2. Please provide a brief explanation on the applicability of the reactor vessel examination procedure that is qualified in accordance with Supplements 4 and 6 of Appendix VIII, ASME Code, Section XI, 1995 Edition through 1996 Addenda, for the ultrasonic technique, procedure, and personnel using PDI to be suitable for the welds in the steam generator and the pressurizer with regard to the following:
  - a. Materials, thickness, diameter, product form.
  - b. Scanning from inside vs. outside.

Enclosure

McGuire Nuclear Station  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Oconee Nuclear Station

cc:

Ms. Lisa F. Vaughn  
Duke Energy Corporation  
422 South Church Street  
Mail Code - PB05E  
P.O. Box 1244  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1244

County Manager of Mecklenburg County  
720 East Fourth Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Mr. C. Jeffrey Thomas, Manager  
Regulatory Compliance  
McGuire Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
12700 Hagers Ferry Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Anne Cottingham, Esquire  
Winston and Strawn  
1400 L Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20005

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
12700 Hagers Ferry Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Mr. Peter R. Harden, IV, Vice President  
Customer Relations and Sales  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
6000 Fairview Road, 12th Floor  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210

Dr. John M. Barry  
Mecklenburg County  
Department of Environmental Protection  
700 N. Tryon Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

County Manager of York County  
York County Courthouse  
York, South Carolina 29745

Mr. Richard M. Fry, Director  
Division of Radiation Protection  
NC Dept. of Env., Health, & Nat. Resources  
3825 Barrett Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

Ms. Karen E. Long, Asst. Attorney General  
NC Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 629  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. R. L. Gill, Jr., Manager  
Nuclear Regulatory Issues  
and Industry Affairs  
Duke Energy Corporation  
526 South Church Street - Mail Stop EC05P  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

NCEM REP Program Manager  
4713 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4713

Mr. T. Richard Puryear  
Owners Group (NCEMC)  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Mr. Lee Keller, Manager  
Regulatory Compliance  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

North Carolina Municipal Power Agency  
Number 1  
1427 Meadowwood Boulevard  
P.O. Box 29513  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0513

McGuire Nuclear Station  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Oconee Nuclear Station

cc:

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency  
121 Village Drive  
Greer, South Carolina 29651

Saluda River Electric  
P.O. Box 929  
Laurens, South Carolina 29360

Henry Porter, Assistant Director - DWM  
Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste  
Dept. of Health & Env. Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-1708

NC Electric Membership Corporation  
P.O. Box 27306  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
4830 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Manager, LIS  
NUS Corporation  
2650 McCormick Drive, 3rd Floor  
Clearwater, Florida 34619-1035

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
7812B Rochester Highway  
Seneca, South Carolina 29672

Mr. Michael A. Schoppman  
Framatome ANP  
1911 North Ft. Myer Drive  
Suite 705  
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209

Mr. B. G. Davenport, Manager  
Regulatory Compliance  
Oconee Nuclear Site  
Duke Energy Corporation  
7800 Rochester Highway - MS ONO3RC  
Seneca, South Carolina 29672

Mr. Dhiaa Jamil  
Vice President  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Mr. G. R. Peterson, Vice President  
McGuire Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
12700 Hagers Ferry Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Mr. Ronald A. Jones, Vice President  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, South Carolina 29672

Ms. Mary Olson  
Director of the Southeast Office  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
729 Haywood Road, 1-A  
P.O. Box 7586  
Asheville, North Carolina 28802

Henry Barron  
Group Vice President, Nuclear Generation  
and Chief Nuclear Officer  
P.O. Box 1006-EC07H  
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006