

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:

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McGuire Nuclear Station
Catawba Nuclear Station
Oconee Nuclear Station

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