

December 16, 2004

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

Re: Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50 -413, 414

McGuire Nuclear Station Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50 -369, 370

Response to NRC Bulletin 2003-01:
Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at
Pressurized Water Reactors

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f), this letter supplements Duke Energy Corporation's (Duke's) response to NRC Bulletin 2003-01 for Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) and McGuire Nuclear Station (MNS). This letter provides a revision to a commitment associated with this bulletin. Duke's prior commitments associated with NRC Bulletin 2003-01 are described in Duke's original response¹ and a supplement.²

The commitments associated with Duke's response to NRC Bulletin 2003-01 provide compensatory measures related to the reduction of risk associated with concerns of potential containment emergency sump blockage during Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) and Containment Spray System recirculation functions. These commitments are either complete or on schedule to be complete by the previously committed date of December 31, 2004, with the exception of one commitment. For this one commitment, a revision is necessary.

The commitment which is being revised adds procedure steps to direct an early manual start of a containment air return fan during certain small break loss of coolant accidents. Duke had committed to have these procedure changes and the associated operator training complete for CNS and MNS by December 31, 2004. However, Duke recently discovered the need to evaluate the effect of this procedure change for loss of coolant accident (LOCA) scenarios at reduced reactor coolant system temperatures. The concern is that for these scenarios there is a potential that this action could adversely affect ECCS inventory margins. Therefore, Duke is revising this commitment to allow additional evaluation to be performed prior to completing these procedure changes.

Therefore, Duke commits to complete additional evaluation by April 30, 2005 of the impacts of procedure changes that would direct an early manual start of a containment air return fan for CNS and MNS. Additionally, Duke commits that if the conclusions of this additional evaluation indicate that it is prudent

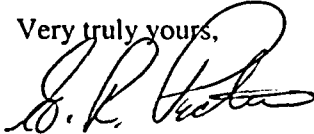
¹ Letter, W. R. McCollum to U.S. NRC, Duke's response to NRC Bulletin 2003-01 for the McGuire, Catawba, and Oconee Nuclear Stations, dated August 7, 2003.

² Letter, W. R. McCollum to U.S. NRC, A supplement to Duke's response to NRC Bulletin 2003-01 for the McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Stations, dated May 27, 2004.

to implement this action within the requirements of 10 CFR § 50.59, these procedure changes and associated operations training will be completed by June 30, 2005 for CNS and MNS. Should this action be determined to be prudent, but require the submittal of a license amendment request, this license amendment request will be submitted by June 30, 2005.

Please direct any questions or additional needs for information to Jeff Thomas at (704) 875-4535.

Very truly yours,



G. R. Peterson

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AFFIDAVIT

G. R. Peterson 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.



Vice President
McGuire Nuclear Station

Subscribed and sworn to me: December 16, 2004
Date



Notary Public

My Commission Expires: March 31, 2007
Date

