

April 22, 2005

Mr. William R. McCollum, Jr.
Vice President, Nuclear Support
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND MCGUIRE NUCLEAR
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
(TAC NO. MB9565, MB9566, MB9586, AND MB9587)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

By letters dated August 7, 2003, and May 27, 2004, Duke Energy Corporation submitted its response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at Pressurized Water Reactors," for Catawba Nuclear Station and McGuire Nuclear Station. The NRC staff has reviewed your response and has determined that additional information is required for the NRC staff to complete its review, as identified in the Enclosure.

We discussed these issues with your staff on April 13, 2005. Your staff indicated that you would attempt to provide your response by May 31, 2005.

Please contact me at (301) 415-1842, if you have any other questions on these issues.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Sean E. Peters, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369, and 50-370

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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York, SC 29745

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DUKE POWER COMPANY

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

AND MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369, AND 50-370

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the licensee's responses dated August 7, 2003, and May 27, 2004, to NRC Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at Pressurized Water Reactors," for Catawba Nuclear Station and McGuire Nuclear Station. The NRC staff has identified the following information that is needed to enable the continuation of its review.

In the letter dated May 27, 2004, Duke provided the following information regarding two potential candidate operator actions (COAs):

1. Stopping one train of containment spray early in an event (COA #A1a). Duke stated that, "the safety analysis might support this strategy," but declined to pursue COA A1a because, "It is not expected that this effort could be completed within the interim period of time intended for use of this compensatory measure."
2. For preventing or delaying containment spray for small break Loss of Coolant Accidents in ice condenser plants (moving the containment spray setpoint) (COA #A11), Duke stated that, "It is expected that analysis using alternative source term (AST) methodology would support a delayed auto-start of containment spray," and that Catawba and McGuire are seeking regulatory approval of AST methodology, but declined to pursue COA #A11 because, "Sufficient time will not be available to enable completion of the analysis, plant modifications, procedure changes, and operator training within the time period these interim compensatory measures are intended to be utilized."

The NRC staff does not accept insufficient available time to be an acceptable basis for not considering a CAO. The Westinghouse Owners Group published WCAP-16204, "Evaluation of Potential ERG and EPG Changes to Address NRC Bulletin 2003-01 Recommendations (PA-SEE-0085)," in March 2004, and licensees have already had a full year in which to evaluate these proposed COAs. Duke must provide a valid technical basis for not considering these two CAOs. As such, the NRC staff requests that Duke provide a technical basis for not evaluating and rejecting the above two CAOs, including any difficulties perceived in implementing the CAOs with respect to AST and containment pressure.

McGuire Nuclear Station
Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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