

June 27, 2005

Mr. D. M. Jamil
Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2 RE: REQUEST TO USE 1998 EDITION, WITH 2000 ADDENDA, OF ASME CODE SECTION XI FOR REPAIR/REPLACEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE THIRD 10-YEAR INSERVICE INSPECTION INTERVAL (TAC NO. MC6809)

Dear Mr. Jamil:

By letter dated March 31, 2005 (Agencywide Documents Access Management System, Accession No. ML051020364), Duke Energy Corporation (Duke), the licensee for Catawba Nuclear Station (Catawba), Unit 2, requested approval to use the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, 1998 Edition, with 2000 Addenda, subject to the modifications and limitations imposed by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.55a(b)(2) for Repair/Replacement Activities on Class 1, 2 and 3 components at Catawba, Unit 2. Duke made its request in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) to use the later edition of the Code for the remainder of the third 10-year inservice inspection (ISI) interval, that is scheduled to be completed by August 19, 2006.

The provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(iv) allow licensees to use subsequent editions and addenda of ASME Code Section XI, provided that the editions and addenda are incorporated by reference in paragraph 10 CFR 50.55a(b), subject to the limitations and modifications listed in paragraph 10 CFR 50.55a(b), and subject to Commission approval. The provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2) allow use of the 1998 Edition, with 2000 Addenda, subject to the modifications and limitations imposed by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2).

Based upon the above information, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff finds the licensee's request to use the 1998 Edition, with 2000 Addenda, of the ASME Code, Section XI for repair/replacement activities for the remainder of the third 10-year ISI interval for Catawba, Unit 2 to be acceptable, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Evangelos C. Marinos, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-414

cc: See next page

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