



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

August 31, 2006

Duke Power Company, LLC d/b/a
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke)
ATTN: Mr. D. M. Jamil
Site Vice President
Catawba Site
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - CATAWBA
NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Jamil:

On August 2, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Catawba Nuclear Station for the first half of the calendar year 2006 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and a resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Catawba Units 1 and 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for Catawba Units 1 and 2 for the most recent quarter was in the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility. In addition to the baseline inspections, we plan to conduct non-ROP inspections involving containment sump blockage, Mitigating System Performance Index, Reactor Pressure Vessel Penetration Nozzles, and Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2008. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4540 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief,
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-413, 50-414, and 72-45

License Nos.: NPF-35, NPF-52

Enclosure: Catawba Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

DPC

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cc w/encl:
Randy D. Hart
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Duke Power Company, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Lisa Vaughn
Associate General Counsel
Duke Power Company, LLC
526 South Church Street
Mail Code EC 07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

Timika Shafeek-Horton
Assistant General Counsel
Duke Power Company, LLC
526 South Church Street-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

David A. Repka
Winston & Strawn LLP
Electronic Mail Distribution

North Carolina MPA-1
Electronic Mail Distribution

Henry J. Porter, Asst. Director
Div. of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S. C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. Mike Gandy
Division of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S. C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

Elizabeth McMahon
Assistant Attorney General
S. C. Attorney General's Office
Electronic Mail Distribution

Vanessa Quinn
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Manager of York County, SC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. L. Gill, Jr., Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Issues
and Industry Affairs
Duke Power Company, LLC
526 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28201-0006

Distribution w/encl: (See page 4)

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Letter to D. M. Jamil from Michael E. Ernstes dated August 31, 2006

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - CATAWBA
NUCLEAR STATION

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S. Peters, NRR

C. Evans

L. Slack, RII EICS

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