

January 9, 2007

Mr. James R. Morris
Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2, REQUEST TO USE A PORTION OF
A LATER EDITION AND ADDENDA OF THE ASME CODE DURING THE
THIRD 10-YEAR INSERVICE INSPECTION INTERVAL (TAC NO. MD3841)

Dear Mr. Morris:

By letter dated January 31, 2006, Duke Power Company LLC (the licensee), submitted a request to use a portion of a later edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code), Section XI requirements for the Catawba Nuclear Station (Catawba), Unit 2. The licensee requested to use the ASME Code, Section XI, 2001 edition, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B for Class 3 system pressure testing for Catawba Unit 2 in lieu of the 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B for Class 3 system pressure testing for the third 10-year inservice inspection interval. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff found the proposed alternative to be acceptable.

The NRC staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Evangelos C. Marinos, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-414

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

THIRD 10-YEAR INSERVICE INSPECTION INTERVAL

DUKE POWER COMPANY LLC.

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2

DOCKET NO. 50-414

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated January 31, 2006 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), Accession No. ML060410118), Duke Power Company LLC (the licensee), submitted a request to use a portion of a later edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code), Section XI requirements for the Catawba Nuclear Station (Catawba), Unit 2. The licensee requested to use the requirements of the 2001 edition of ASME Code, Section XI, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing for Catawba Unit 2 in lieu of the requirements in the 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing for the Catawba Unit 2 third 10-year inservice inspection (ISI) interval.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a(g)(4), ASME Code Class 1, 2 and 3 components (including supports) shall meet the requirements, except the design and access provisions and the preservice examination requirements, set forth in the ASME Code, Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection (ISI) of Nuclear Power Plant Components," to the extent practical within the limitations of design, geometry, and materials of construction of the components. The regulations require that inservice examination of components and system pressure tests conducted during the first 10-year interval and subsequent intervals comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) 12 months prior to the start of the 120-month interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein.

The third 10-year ISI interval for Catawba Unit 2 began October 15, 2005. The ISI Code of Record for the third 10-year interval for Catawba Unit 2 is the 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda. The components (including supports) may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda of the ASME Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein and subject to Commission approval. ISI of ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components is to be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Code and applicable edition and addenda as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g) except where specific written approval has been granted by the Commission

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pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv). Section 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) states: "Inservice examination of components and system pressure tests may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in paragraph (b) of this section, and subject to Commission approval. Portions of editions or addenda may be used provided that all related requirements of the respective editions or addenda are met."

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

The licensee requested to use the requirements of ASME Code, Section XI, 2001 edition, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing for Catawba Unit 2 in lieu of the 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing for the third 10-year ISI interval.

The 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing lists two pressure test requirements for Class 3 systems. One of these tests is a system leakage test and one is a system hydrostatic test. The 2001 edition, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B, for Class 3 system pressure testing lists one pressure test requirement, which is a system leakage test.

The NRC staff confirmed that the application of the requirements of the 2001 edition, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B has been approved in 10 CFR 50.55(a). Further, there are no limitations or modifications addressed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) which would apply to the implementation of the proposed ASME Code requirements. Finally, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff confirmed that there are no related requirements of the 2001 edition of the ASME Code that would need to be met to support the licensee's request.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The NRC staff concludes that the licensee's request to use the 2001 edition of ASME Code, Section XI, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B for Class 3 system pressure testing for Catawba Unit 2 in lieu of the 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B for Class 3 system pressure testing for the third 10-year ISI interval is acceptable without limitation or modification. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of the 2001 edition of ASME Code, Section XI, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B for Class 3 system pressure testing for Catawba Unit 2 in lieu of the 1998 edition with the 2000 addenda, Table IWD-2500-1, Category D-B for Class 3 system pressure testing for the Catawba Unit 2 third 10-year ISI interval. All other ASME Code, Section XI requirements for which relief was not specifically requested and approved in this request remain applicable, including third-party review by the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector.

Principal Contributor: J. Stang

Date: January 9, 2007