

June 15, 2007

Mr. H. B. Barron
Group Vice President
Nuclear Generation
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Duke Power Company LLC
P. O. Box 1006/EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - COMMITMENT FOR HYDROGEN IGNITER POWER SUPPLY CHANGE AND CLOSURE PROCESS FOR GENERIC ISSUE 189, "SUSCEPTIBILITY OF ICE CONDENSER AND MARK III CONTAINMENTS TO EARLY FAILURE FROM HYDROGEN COMBUSTION DURING A SEVERE ACCIDENT"

Dear Mr. Barron:

This letter acknowledges your March 8, 2007, letter committing to changes at McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (McGuire), and Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 (Catawba), that will enhance plant capabilities to mitigate the potential for early containment failure from hydrogen combustion. The proposed changes involve powering one train of igniters for each unit from the site's safe shutdown facility.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff agrees that the proposed modifications will resolve concerns related to Generic Issue 189 (GI-189), "Susceptibility of Ice Condenser and Mark III Containments to Early Failure from Hydrogen Combustion During a Severe Accident," and provide benefits for certain security scenarios. The NRC staff understands that your commitments will enhance the electrical independence of the containment hydrogen igniter system. This action is warranted for pressurized-water reactors with ice condenser containments because many systems that prevent core damage rely on the same power supplies and electrical distribution system as the hydrogen igniters. This enhancement mitigates the potential for early containment failure by allowing control of hydrogen within containment following certain beyond-design-basis events that may progress to core damage and preclude operation of the hydrogen igniters from the normal power supply. The NRC staff expects this enhancement will provide hydrogen igniter system electrical independence commensurate with the expected frequency, challenges, and uncertainties associated with these beyond-design-basis events.

Consistent with the guidelines of NRC Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program," the NRC staff will perform verification inspections at Catawba and McGuire. These inspections will include elements to verify that you establish procedures to provide back-up power to the hydrogen igniters, train appropriate staff in the procedures, and institute appropriate controls on the reliability and availability of necessary equipment. Procedures that allow trained personnel

to establish power to the igniters within 3 hours are fully consistent with goals to mitigate potential hydrogen accumulation. The NRC staff understands existing technical specifications for the Catawba and McGuire sites will ensure adequate availability and reliability of the igniters and the power supplies. In addition, NRC licensing project managers may verify the integrity of your commitments over time through established review procedures for your commitment management program.

Verification of your committed actions and those of other affected licensees will provide the basis by which the NRC will close out GI-189. The NRC staff will perform the verification inspections at a time consistent with the implementation dates specified in your letter. Accordingly, please keep the NRC staff informed of any changes in the scope of modifications or the implementation dates.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-369, 50-370, 50-413, and 50-414
License Nos. NPF-9, NPF-17, NPF-35, and NPF-52

cc: See next page

H. B. Barron

- 2 -

June 15, 2007

to establish power to the igniters within 3 hours are fully consistent with goals to mitigate potential hydrogen accumulation. The NRC staff understands existing technical specifications for the Catawba and McGuire sites will ensure adequate availability and reliability of the igniters and the power supplies. In addition, NRC licensing project managers may verify the integrity of your commitments over time through established review procedures for your commitment management program.

Verification of your committed actions and those of other affected licensees will provide the basis by which the NRC will close out GI-189. The NRC staff will perform the verification inspections at a time consistent with the implementation dates specified in your letter. Accordingly, please keep the NRC staff informed of any changes in the scope of modifications or the implementation dates.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-369, 50-370, 50-413, and 50-414
License Nos. NPF-9, NPF-17, NPF-35, and NPF-52

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC
LPL2-1 R/F
RidsNrrPMJStang
RidsNrrLAMO'Brien
RidsNrrDorLpl2-1(EMarinos)
RidsOgcRp
RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter
RidsRgn2MailCenter(JMoorman)
RidsNrrrDssSbpb(JSegala)
RidsNrrDprPgcb

ADAMS Letter: ML071500608

OFFICE	DSS/SBPB	DSS/SBPB:BC	DSS:D	DPR/PGCB	DIRS:D	DORL/LPL2-1:LA	DORL/LPL2-1:PM	DORL:D
NAME	SJones	JSegala	JWermiel	JGolla	ECollins	MO'Brien	JStang	CHaney
DATE	06/04/07	06/05/07	06/05/07	06/05/07	6/8/07	6/11/07	6/11/07	6/15/07

cc:

Site Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Power Company, LLC
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

Associate General Counsel and Managing
Attorney
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
526 South Church Street - EC07H
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Regulatory Compliance
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745

North Carolina Municipal Power
Agency Number 1
1427 Meadowwood Boulevard
P.O. Box 29513
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626

County Manager of York County
York County Courthouse
York, South Carolina 29745

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
121 Village Drive
Greer, South Carolina 29651

Assistant Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

NCEM REP Program Manager
4713 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4713

North Carolina Electric Membership Corp.
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
4830 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745

Assistant Director
Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Dept. of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201-1708

Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Issues
and Industry Affairs
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street
Mail Stop EC05P
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Saluda River Electric
P.O. Box 929
Laurens, South Carolina 29360

Vice President
Customer Relations and Sales
Westinghouse Electric Company
6000 Fairview Road
12th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28210

Owners Group (NCEMC)
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745

Senior Counsel
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
526 South Church Street - EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

cc:

Division of Radiation Protection
NC Dept. of Environment, Health,
and Natural Resources
3825 Barrett Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

Group Vice President, Nuclear Generation
and Chief Nuclear Officer
P.O. Box 1006-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30303-8931

McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Vice President
McGuire Nuclear Station
Duke Power Company, LLC
12700 Hagers Ferry Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

Associate General Counsel and Managing
Attorney
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
526 South Church Street - EC07H
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

County Manager of Mecklenburg County
720 E. Fourth St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Regulatory Compliance Manager
Duke Energy Corporation
McGuire Nuclear Site
12700 Hagers Ferry Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
12700 Hagers Ferry Road
Huntersville, NC 28078

Mecklenburg County
Department of Environmental Protection
700 N. Tryon St
Charlotte, NC 28202

Vice President
Customer Relations and Sales
Westinghouse Electric Company
6000 Fairview Road, 12th Floor
Charlotte, NC 28210

NCEM REP Program Manager
4713 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4713

Assistant Attorney General
NC Department of Justice
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27602

Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Issues &
Industry Affairs
Duke Energy Corporation
526 S. Church St.
Mail Stop EC05P
Charlotte, NC 28202

Division of Radiation Protection
NC Dept of Environment, Health & Natural
Resources
3825 Barrett Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27609-7721

Owners Group (NCEMC)
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

Group Vice President, Nuclear Generation
& Chief Nuclear Officer
P.O. Box 1006-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

Senior Counsel
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
526 South Church Street - EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28202