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February 17, 2009

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

Subject: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke)
Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Update on the Status of the November 21, 2008 Request for
Additional Information (RAI) and Additional Testing for Catawba
Units 1 and 2 Pursuant to NRC Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02,
"Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency
Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-
Water Reactors"

Pursuant to the November 21, 2008 RAI letter, Duke is providing an update on
the schedule for the RAI responses. This letter will outline the history of Duke's
responses and future plans to resolve reviewer concerns with Catawba's GL
2004-02 Supplemental Responses.

In November of 2007 Duke completed prototype chemical effects testing for the
evaluation of Emergency Core Cooling System strainer head loss. The results of
this testing were used in the February 29 and April 30, 2008, Catawba
supplemental responses to GL 2004-02. In March 2008 a document titled "NRC
Staff Review Guidance Regarding Generic Letter 2004-02 Closure in the Area of
Strainer Head Loss and Vortexing" was issued. Thus, the lessons learned
through industry testing were not available to be fully incorporated into Duke's
original testing protocols.

By letter of November 21, 2008, the NRC forwarded requests for additional
information (RAI) regarding the Catawba supplemental responses to GL 2004-
02. A 90 day response date was requested for all but RAI 29. As stated in that

ALL
NRC

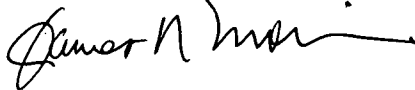
letter, the NRC requested to receive only one response letter for all RAIs (with the exception of RAI 29).

On November 24, 2008 a meeting was convened between the NRC and Duke to discuss staff concerns with Duke's original prototype testing (debris preparation, debris introduction, debris agglomeration, flow fields, bare strainer area and chemical effects). Based upon NRC concerns, Duke has chosen to perform additional confirmatory debris bed head loss testing, using test methodology reflecting the more recent guidance. Several of the November 2008 RAI questions are test dependent (i.e., the response to the original RAIs will change as a result of any follow-up confirmatory debris bed head loss testing).

Thus, Duke is currently in the process of vetting vendors' bids for testing planned in the April to July timeframe. Since a firm testing schedule is not available at this time, Duke is proposing an RAI response completion schedule for all the RAIs (except RAI 29) in the Fall of 2009. Duke will commit to providing a refined schedule for completion of the RAI responses based on testing progress by July 31, 2009. The date for response to RAI 29 will be within 90 days of issuance of the final NRC staff's SE on WCAP-16793 or 12/31/09, whichever is later. Attachment A provides the regulatory commitments made in this letter.

If any questions arise or additional information is needed, please contact A. P. Jackson at (803) 701-3742.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Morris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James R. Morris

Attachment

xc: w/attachments

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Catawba Document Control File: 801.01 – CN04DM
Catawba RGC Date File
ELL-EC05O
NCMPA-1
NCEMC
PMPA

ATTACHMENT A

REGULATORY COMMITMENTS:

The following table identifies those actions committed to by Catawba in this document. Any other statements made in this licensing submittal are provided for informational purposes only and are not considered to be regulatory commitments. Please direct any questions you may have in this matter to A. P. Jackson at (803) 701-3742.

REGULATORY COMMITMENTS	Due Date
Provide a refined due date for RAI responses and a brief update on array testing.	7/31/09
Provide the result of evaluations of in-vessel downstream effects for RAI 29.	Within 90 days of the issuance of the final NRC SER on WCAP-16793-NP, or 12/31/09, whichever is later.