



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 4, 2009

Mr. J. R. Morris
Site Vice President
Duke Power Company, LLC
d/b/a Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000413/2009001 AND 05000414/2009001)

Dear Mr. Morris:

On February 10, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Catawba Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. 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 security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security Related Information" will include the Security Cornerstone performance review and 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 the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within 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 (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. We also plan on conducting several non-ROP inspections, which involve: (1) reactor coolant system dissimilar metal butt welds (Temporary Instruction (TI)-2515/172); (2) hydrogen igniter backup power verification (TI-2515/174); (3) the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; (4) emergency response organization drill/exercise performance indicator program review (TI-2515/175); and (5) operator licensing examinations. In addition, TI-2515/173, Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative, will be performed at your facility prior to August 30, 2010. In the near term, we will contact you to assess your readiness for this inspection and then finalize our schedule accordingly.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through June 30, 2010. 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 nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-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) 562-4607 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-413, 50-414, 72-045
License Nos.: NPF-35, NPF-52

Enclosure: Catawba Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

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X PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE X NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: X Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____ X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP					
SIGNATURE	EJS /RA/	JHB /RA/					
NAME	EStamm	JBartley					
DATE	02/27/2009	02/27/2009					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

cc w/encls:

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DEC

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Letter to J. R. Morris from Jonathan H. Bartley, dated March 4, 2009

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000413/2009001 AND 05000414/2009001)

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