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

September 1, 2009

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

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

Dear Mr. Morris:

On August 11, 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 July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. 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.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Catawba Units 1 and 2 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.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through December 31, 2010. In addition to ROP baseline inspection activities, we also plan on conducting several infrequently performed inspections, which involve the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; operator licensing examinations; Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/172, Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds; and TI 2515/173, Review of the Implementation of the Industry Groundwater Protection Voluntary Initiative. Finally, we plan to schedule additional inspections related to the planned Ovation Digital Control System modification scheduled for implementation during the Unit 1 Refueling outage. These additional inspections will be conducted using ROP baseline inspection procedures. The dates of these inspections will be coordinated with your staff. 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 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).

As you may know, the NRC is currently evaluating the scope and frequency of all the baseline inspection procedures. If the results of the evaluation, or any other circumstances, 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, 72-45
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 ***JHB***

OFFICE	RII:DRP	RII:DRP					
SIGNATURE	JHB /RA/	EJS /RA/					
NAME	JBartley	EStamm					
DATE	08/26/2009	08/24/2009					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DRP\PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS & REPORTS\EOC & MID-CYCLE\2009\MID-CYCLE\RPB1\CATAWBA MID CYCLE 2009 LETTER.DOC

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Letter to J. R. Morris from Jonathan H. Bartley, dated September 1, 2009

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