



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

May 8, 2012

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

**SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION – 05000413/2012301 AND 05000414/2012301**

Dear Mr. Morris:

In a telephone conversation on May 4, 2012, between Mr. Eric Madsen, Nuclear Operations Training Supervisor, Darrell Hensley, Lead Exam Author and Mr. Phillip Capehart, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Catawba Nuclear Station. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the weeks of September 4 and September 10, 2012. The written examination is scheduled to be administered during the week of September 17, 2012. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of August 13, 2012.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test and written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outline by June 21, 2012. Mr. Capehart provided the written examination outline to your staff in October 2011. The operating test, written examination, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by August 6, 2012. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline, examination, and test before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under approval number 3150-0018, which expires on February 28, 2013. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at infocollectsresource@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Madsen has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Capehart at (404) 997-4483, (Internet E-mail: Phillip.Capehart@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4550, (Internet E-mail: Malcolm.Widmann@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief
Operations Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: See Page 4

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Madsen has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Capehart at (404) 997-4483, (Internet E-mail: Phillip.Capehart@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4550, (Internet E-mail: Malcolm.Widmann@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Malcolm T. Widmann, Chief
 Operations Branch 1
 Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: See Page 4

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE
 ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML121290630 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS					
SIGNATURE	<i>Via email /RA/</i>	RA					
NAME	CAPEHART	WIDMANN					
DATE	5/8/2012	5/8/2012					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: G:\OLEXAMS\CATAWBA EXAMINATIONS\INITIAL EXAM 2012-301\CORRESPONDENCE\CATAWBA 2012-301 CORPORATE NOTIFICATION 120 DAY LETTER (PGC).DOCX

cc:

George T. Hamrick
Station Manager
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Tanya M. Hamilton
Engineering Manager
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Steven B. Putnam
Safety Assurance Manager
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Randy D. Hart
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

David A. Baxter
Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
General Office
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

M. Christopher Nolan
Fleet Safety Assurance Manager
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Charles J. Thomas
Fleet Licensing Manager
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Luellen B. Jones
Fleet Licensing Engineer
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Lara S. Nichols
Vice President-Legal
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

David A. Cummings
Associate General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Richardson, Alicia
Licensing Administrative Assistant
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Beth J. Horsley
Wholesale Customer Relations
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Sandra Threatt, Manager
Nuclear Response and Emergency
Environmental Surveillance
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
Department of Health and Environmental
Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

Division of Radiological Health
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1532

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Catawba Nuclear Station
4830 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

David A. Repka
Winston Strawn LLP
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Manager of York County
York County Courthouse
P. O. Box 66
York, SC 29745-0066

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

(cc cont'd – See page 5)

(cc cont'd)
Vanessa Quinn
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Program
1800 S. Bell Street
Arlington, VA 20598-3025

Duke Energy Corporation, LLC
ATTN: Mr. Kevin Phillips
Training Manager
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

Letter to J. R. Morris from Malcolm T. Widmann dated May 8, 2012.

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
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A. Adams, NRR

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