



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 3, 1998

50-413/414
50-269/270/287
50-369/370

Mr. M.S. Tuckman
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street
P.O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST FROM THE ASME SECTION XI REQUIREMENT AS ENDORSED BY 10 CFR 50.55a FOR CONTAINMENT INSPECTION - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2; OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3; AND MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MA1502, MA1503, MA1510, MA1511, MA1512, MA1521, AND MA1522) (SERIAL NO. 98-GO-001)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

By letter dated April 6, 1998, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) requested relief from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, Subsection IWE, 1992 Edition with the 1992 Agenda for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3; and McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2.

Specifically, relief is requested from the VT-3 visual examination requirements for seals and gaskets of Class MC pressure retaining components and metallic liners of Class CC components, as specified in the ASME Code, Section XI, 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda, IWE-2500, Table IWE-2500-1, for Examination Category E-D, Item Numbers E5.10 and E5.20.

Based on the information provided and as discussed in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, the staff has concluded that the existing alternative requirements are acceptable for assuring the leak tight integrity of the containment penetrations, including the associated seals and gaskets. In addition, performance of the additional VT-3 visual examination in accordance with the Code requirement, IWE-2500, Table IWE-2500-1, Examination Category E-D, would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

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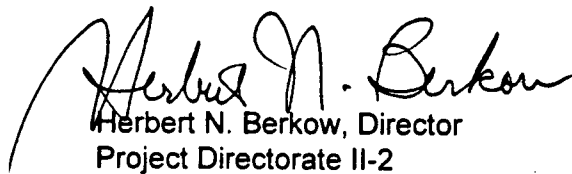
AA3

M. S. Tuckman

-2-

Therefore, the alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow".

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-269, 50-270,
50-287, 50-369, and 50-370

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Therefore, the alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-269, 50-270,
50-287, 50-369, and 50-370

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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See previous concurrences

Catawba, McGuire, Oconee Nuclear
Stations

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