



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

November 25, 1998

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 TO USE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE, SECTION XI RELATED TO VISUAL EXAMINATIONS - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2; MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2; AND OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 (TAC NOS. MA2009, MA2010, MA2013, MA2014 MA2015; MA2011, AND MA2012) (SERIAL NO. 98-GO-004)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

By letter dated May 28, 1998, Duke Energy Corporation submitted Request for Relief No. 98-GO-004, seeking relief from the expedited examination of containment required by Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(B), and the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, second 10-year interval, the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, second 10-year interval, and the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, third 10-year interval. By letter dated July 29, 1998, you responded to an NRC request for additional information and provided a revised version of 98-GO-004.

To comply with the expedited examination of containment requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(B), visual examinations of Class MC (and Metallic Liners of Class CC Concrete Components of Light-Water Cooled Reactors) and Class CC (Concrete Components of Light-Water Cooled Reactors) components must be performed in accordance with the requirements of IWL.

Based on the information provided, and as discussed in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, the staff concludes that the proposed alternative will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, this proposed alternative is authorized, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i),

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M. S. Tuckman

- 2 -

November 25, 1998

for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, second 10-year interval, the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, second 10-year interval, and the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, third 10-year interval.

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, 50-369, 50-370,
50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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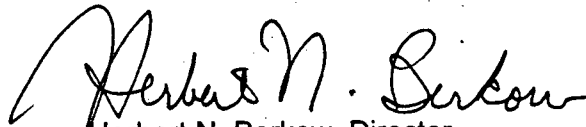
10/19/98

M. S. Tuckman

- 2 -

for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, second 10-year interval, the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, second 10-year interval, and the Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3, third 10-year interval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Herbert N. Berkow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "B".

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, 50-369, 50-370,
50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

Catawba, McGuire, Oconee Nuclear
Stations

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