



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 24, 1998

50-269/270/281  
50-369/370  
50-413/414

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; MCGUIRE NUCLEAR  
STATION UNITS 1 AND 2; AND OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2,  
AND 3 (TAC NOS. MA1513, MA1514, MA1515, MA1508, MA1509, MA1504,  
AND MA1505) (SERIAL NO. 98-GO-002)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

By letter dated April 6, 1998, Duke Energy Corporation (DEC/the licensee) requested relief from the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, Subsection IWE, 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2; and Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. Your letters of June 10, and August 18, 1998, provide responses to the staff's requests for additional information.

Specifically, relief is requested from the bolt torque or tension test requirements for pressure-retaining bolting 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, "Examination Category E-G, Pressure Retaining Bolting," Item No. E8.20.

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 leaktight integrity of the containment penetrations, including the associated seals and gaskets. In addition, performance of the bolt torque or tension tests on pressure-retaining bolted connections as specified in Table IWE-2500-1, "Examination Category E-G, Pressure Retaining Bolting," Item No. E8.20, would result in hardship without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

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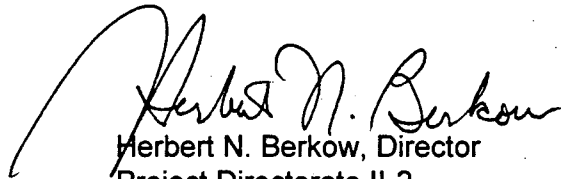
300027

M. S. Tuckman .

- 2 -

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

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: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

M. S. Tuckman

- 2 -

November 24, 1998

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

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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Catawba, McGuire, Oconee Nuclear  
Stations

cc:

Dr. John M. Barry  
Mecklenburg County  
Department of Environmental  
Protection  
700 N Tryon Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 29202

County Manager of Mecklenburg County  
720 East Fourth Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Mr. Michael T. Cash  
Regulatory Compliance Manager  
Duke Energy Corporation  
McGuire Nuclear Site  
12700 Hagers Ferry Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Senior Resident Inspector  
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
12700 Hagers Ferry Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Mr. Richard M. Fry, Director  
Division of Radiation Protection  
North Carolina Department of  
Environment, Health, and Natural  
Resources  
3825 Barrett Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

County Supervisor of Oconee County  
Walhalla, South Carolina 27621

Elaine Wathen, Lead REP Planner  
Division of Emergency Management  
116 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-1335

Mr. T. Richard Puryear  
Owners Group (NCEMC)  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Mr. Rick N. Edwards  
Framatome Technologies  
Suite 525  
1700 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Manager, LIS  
NUS Corporation  
2650 McCormick Drive, 3rd Floor  
Clearwater, Florida 34619-1035

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
7812B Rochester Highway  
Seneca, South Carolina 29672

Mr. G. R. Peterson  
Site Vice President  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Mr. H. B. Barron  
Vice President, McGuire Site  
Duke Energy Corporation  
12700 Hagers Ferry Road  
Huntersville, North Carolina 28078

Mr. William R. McCollum  
Vice President, Oconee Site  
Duke Energy Corporation  
P. O. Box 1439  
Seneca, South Carolina 29679

North Carolina Electric Membership  
Corporation  
P. O. Box 27306  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

Catawba, McGuire, Oconee Nuclear  
Stations

cc:

Mr. Gary Gilbert  
Regulatory Compliance Manager  
Duke Energy Corporation  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Mr. Paul R. Newton  
Legal Department (PBO5E)  
Duke Energy Corporation  
422 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

J. Michael McGarry, III, Esquire  
Winston and Strawn  
1400 L Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20005

North Carolina Municipal Power  
Agency Number 1  
1427 Meadowwood Boulevard  
P. O. Box 29513  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626

Mr. Steven P. Shaver  
Senior Sales Engineer  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
5929 Carnegie Blvd.  
Suite 500  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28209

County Manager of York County  
York County Courthouse  
York, South Carolina 29745

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency  
121 Village Drive  
Greer, South Carolina 29651

Saluda River Electric Cooperative,  
Inc.  
P. O. Box 929  
Laurens, South Carolina 29360

Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
4830 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Regional Administrator, Region II  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 23T85  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Virgil R. Autry, Director  
Division of Radioactive Waste Management  
Bureau of Land and Waste Management  
Department of Health and Environmental  
Control  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Ms. Karen E. Long  
Assistant Attorney General  
North Carolina Department of Justice  
P. O. Box 629  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

L. A. Keller  
Manager - Nuclear Regulatory  
Licensing  
Duke Energy Corporation  
526 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1006

Mr. Ed Burchfield  
Compliance  
Duke Energy Corporation  
Oconee Nuclear Site  
P. O. Box 1439  
Seneca, South Carolina 29679