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SUBJECT: Informs that DPC performs fuel rod mechanical analyses using methodology in TR DPC-NE-2008P-A, "DPC Fuel Mechanical Reload Analysis Methodology Using TAC03," in response to NRC RAI.

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June 11, 1998

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: McGuire Nuclear Station  
Docket Numbers 50-369 and -370  
Catawba Nuclear Station  
Docket Numbers 50-413, and -414  
Oconee Nuclear Station  
Docket Numbers 50-269, -270 and -287

Subject: Use of FCF High Burnup Topical Report By Duke Power  
Company, dated December 16, 1997

The referenced letter requested NRC's approval to use the Framatome Cogema Fuel Company's topical report, BAW 10186P-A as subsequently clarified in FCF letter to NRC dated October 28, 1997. Subsequent to Duke's issue of the referenced letter dated December 16, 1997, NRC requested Duke to provide additional clarification which is provided below.

Currently, Duke Power Company performs fuel rod mechanical analyses using the methodology in DPC-NE-2008P-A, "Duke Power Company Fuel Mechanical Reload Analysis Methodology Using TACO3", SER dated April 3, 1995. The Duke topical report is based on FCF methods which limit the application of TACO3 to a maximum fuel rod burnup of 62,000 MWd/mtU.

FCF has received approval for their extended burnup topical report (BAW-10186P-A, Rev. 0) which limits the fuel rod burnup to 62,000 MWd/mtU on the Mk-B fuel and 60,000 MWd/mtU on the Mk-BW

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fuel. In order to add FCF's extended burnup report to the U. S. licensing basis for Oconee, McGuire and Catawba, Duke requested in a letter dated December 16, 1997 approval to analyze fuel rod corrosion using FCF's approved methods. Duke will use FCF's corrosion methodology and oxide limit as defined in FCF's letter to the NRC, dated October 28, 1997, concerning "Application of BAW-10186P-A, Extended Burnup Evaluation." Additionally Duke will continue to use its existing licensing basis methodology, DPC-NE-2008P-A; will provide documentation including code benchmarking and verification and corrosion data collection and analysis for potential future NRC audits; and will continue to meet all of NRC's burnup limitations as stated above.

If there are any questions concerning this clarification, please contact Mr. Ron Gribble at (704) 382-6160.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. S. Tuckman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

M. S. Tuckman

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