

# CATEGORY 1

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50-413 Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Duke Power Co.			05000413
50-414 Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Duke Power Co.			05000414

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SUBJECT: Provides update on util plan for addressing fire barrier penetration seal deficiencies & enhancing design-basis documentation. Overall completion of project is scheduled for each plant, as listed.

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August 4, 1998

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Subject: Duke Energy Corporation  
Oconee Nuclear Station - Units 1, 2, & 3  
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287  
McGuire Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370  
Catawba Nuclear station - Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414  
Fire Barrier Penetration Seals

Dear Mr. Reyes:

During recent Duke Triennial Fire Protection Audits at Catawba and Oconee, deficiencies were noted with some fire barrier penetration seals in that there were some through-wall gaps in the silicone foam filler material. These deficiencies were discussed with Mr. G. Wiseman of your staff and various personnel at Duke during his recent inspections at all three sites. The issue of design-basis documentation for penetrations was also discussed.

This letter is voluntarily submitted to update the Region on Duke's plan for addressing the fire barrier penetration seal deficiencies and enhancing design-basis documentation.

Identified fire barrier deficiencies are being corrected in a timely manner and further inspections are being conducted at all three stations to determine if other discrepancies exist. At Catawba and McGuire inspections are in progress and to date no further deficiencies have been identified at these sites.

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The Oconee inspections were started immediately during the audit. Additional installation problems were identified during the initial sample inspection. Repairs are initiated as deficient installations are identified. As of July 29, 1998, about 450 penetration seals have been inspected at Oconee. Additional inspections are in progress and will continue until there is confidence that penetration seals are properly installed.

At each station, the results of the sample inspections will be evaluated to determine if additional sample inspections are warranted. Additionally, foam dispensing specifications, and maintenance and inspection procedures are being enhanced.

Duke is in the process of developing a three-site plan to update penetration seal design-basis documentation and configuration information. The plan will include inspections to document as-built penetration seal configuration and development of a comprehensive design-basis document that will include this information and describe the qualification criteria for the penetration (analysis/testing). This plan will include milestone schedules for each station (this project is currently under way at Oconee). Overall completion of this project is scheduled as follows:

Oconee	6/1/99
Catawba	12/31/00
McGuire	12/31/00.

If this schedule changes Duke will notify you in writing.

Please note that our inspections/evaluations to date have determined that none of the discrepancies identified would have resulted in the inability to achieve safe shutdown in the event of a fire.

Very truly yours,



M.S. Tuckman

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