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SUBJECT: Expresses appreciation for NRC prompt response to request to perform technical audit of util use of fuel rod code methodology.

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DUKE POWER

April 20, 1995

Mr. William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: NRC Support on Methodology Review

Reference: Letter, Herbert N. Berkow to M.S. Tuckman, Subject: Duke Power Company's Use of TACO-3 for the Oconee, McGuire, and Catawba Nuclear Stations, dated April 3, 1995.

Dear Mr. Russell:

Duke Power would like to thank NRC for its prompt response to a request to perform a technical audit in Charlotte of Duke's use of a fuel rod code methodology. Several instances of initiative could be cited:

- (1). R.C. Jones suggested use of the audit approach as a win-win method to reduce NRC cost and shorten schedule, thus providing earlier use by Duke.
- (2). Shih-Liang Wu and Carl Beyer (Battelle) both did an excellent job of giving Duke 3-4 days of thorough review of both Duke's use of the fuel rod code, TACO3, and of Duke's overall fuel reload methods.
- (3). Shih-Liang Wu and others at NRC performed exceptionally well to write and approve the SER. The exit occurred on March 10, and the SER was received in the referenced letter dated April 3.

We believe that this approach offers both the NRC and the utility advantages in cost savings and time savings. Also, we believe that the process of audit provides a better technical understanding and a better perspective of the utility's technical competence to the NRC than does the typical report review process. We suggest that the audit method be utilized more extensively in the future.

Thank you for the support of your staff in this effort.

Respectfully,

M. S. Tuckman

RMG/pkh

cc: J. M. Taylor

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