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

February 2, 2016

Mr. Regis T. Repko
Senior Vice President
Governance, Projects and Engineering
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
P.O. Box 1006/ECO7H
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 – TRANSMITTAL OF DRAFT AUDIT REPORT REGARDING LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST RE: ALTERNATE FISSION GAS GAP FRACTIONS (CAC NOS. MF6480, MF6481, MF6482, MF6483, MF6484, MF6485 AND MF6486)

Dear Mr. Repko:

By letter dated July 15, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15196A093), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke, the licensee), submitted a license amendment request for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, and McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendment requested approval to use a new set of fission gas gap release fractions for high burnup fuel rods that exceed the line at heat generation rate limit detailed in Regulatory Guide 1.183, Table 3, Footnote 11. On October 26, 2015, the NRC staff began a regulatory audit at Duke corporate headquarters to support this review (ADAMS Accession No. ML15281A293).

Enclosed is the draft audit report that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has prepared following the audit. Pursuant to Section 2.390 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), we have made a preliminary determination that the enclosed draft audit report does not contain proprietary information, the NRC staff requests that Duke or any other owner of the information confirm that the draft audit report does not contain any information that is considered proprietary. If you believe that any information is proprietary, please identify such information line-by-line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.390. The NRC staff requests that Duke provide comments regarding the proprietary content in the draft audit report within 10 business days from the date of this letter. The response timeframe was discussed with Mr. Art Zaremba of your staff on November 19, 2015.

Since the NRC review is not yet complete, this letter and the enclosure do not convey or represent an NRC staff position regarding Duke's request.

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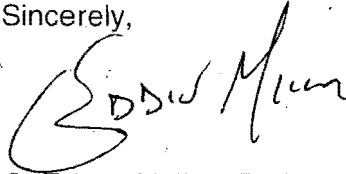
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R. Repko

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-2481 or by e-mail at ed.miller@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Edward Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

G. Edward Miller, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369, 50-370, 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287

Enclosure:
Audit Report

cc w/o encl: Distribution via Listserv

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R. Repko

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-2481 or by e-mail at ed.miller@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

G. Edward Miller, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch II-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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