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SUBJECT: Discusses several topics, including Dukes topical rept
 submittal schedule & how Duke could most expeditiously
 receive NRC approval for use of vendor-licensed
 methodologies.

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DUKE POWER

May 4, 1994

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555
Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Numbers 50-269, -270, and -287
McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Numbers 50-369 and -370
Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Numbers 50-413 and -414
Request for Approval for Use by Duke Power Company of
TACO3

- References: 1) BAW-10162P-A, "TACO3 - Fuel Pin Thermal Analysis
Computer Code", B&W Fuel Company, November 1989
- 2) BAW-10183P, "Fuel Rod Gas Pressure Criterion", B&W
Fuel Company, August 1991

Representatives of Duke Power Company and the NRC met on June 9, 1992 to discuss several topics, including Duke's topical report submittal schedule and how Duke could most expeditiously receive NRC approval for use of vendor-licensed methodologies. Recent telephone conversations between K. S. Canady (Duke) and R. C. Jones (NRC) have indicated that the NRC is considering alternative methods for providing approval of reload design methodologies; including NRC audit or review of a utility's use of a previously-approved methodology developed by someone other than the utility.

The purpose of this letter is to request approval for use by Duke Power of TACO3 (Reference 1) and the Fuel Rod Gas Pressure Criterion (FRGPC) (Reference 2; approved by NRC letter dated February 22, 1994). Approval for implementing this methodology is requested by December, 1994. If the NRC staff wishes to audit Duke's application of References 1 and 2, the following supporting documentation will be available in August, 1994:

1. A workplace procedure which prescribes the requirements for Duke's application of approved methodologies and/or codes developed by someone other than Duke Power.

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2. A methodology report that meets the requirements of the workplace procedure (item 1, above) and prescribes how the methodologies discussed in References 1 and 2 would be applied at Duke. Minor deviations relative to the approved methodologies (to represent Duke's core design methodology would be discussed in this report.
3. All generic Mark-BW fuel rod mechanical analyses using TACO3 (pin pressure, Linear Heat Rate to Melt, clad strain, and LOCA initialization). These calculations use the NRC-approved TACO3 methodology developed by BWFC and discussed in Reference 1, with only minor deviations as discussed above.

Following receipt of approval for the use of TACO3, all Technical Specifications and/or Core Operating Limit Report references to TACO2 will be revised to reflect TACO3. Duke would appreciate prompt feedback from the NRC staff concerning the staff's desire to audit Duke's use of TACO3 and FRGPC methodology.

If you would like to discuss this, please call Scott Gewehr at (704) 382-7581.

Very truly yours,



M. S. Tuckman

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