

March 27, 1990

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

Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President  
Nuclear Production Department  
Duke Power Company  
422 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Dear Mr. Tucker:

SUBJECT: CODE CASE N-461 OF THE ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE (TACS 76139, 76140, 76141, 76142, 76143, 76144 and 76145)

Your letter dated February 21, 1990, requested NRC approval of ASME Code Case N-461 for incorporation into the Inservice Inspection programs at the Duke Power nuclear stations. Code Case N-461 discusses alternative rules for piping calibration block thickness. However, your request did not indicate either that Code Case N-461 would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety or that compliance with the specified requirement would result in hardship or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3). Therefore, we are unable to process your request. We recommend that you resubmit your request with the prerequisite findings and justifications.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Len Wiens at (301) 492-1493.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

David B. Matthews, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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