

August 30, 1983

Docket Nos: 50-413
and 50-414

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

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Dear Mr. Tucker:

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station - Results of NRC
Caseload Forecast Panel Visit July 27-28,
1983

This letter is to inform you of the findings of the NRC Caseload Forecast Panel (CFP) resulting from the July 27-28, 1983, meeting and site visit to assess construction completion schedule for Unit 1 of the Catawba Nuclear Station.

Duke Power stated that its official estimated fuel load date for Catawba Unit 1 is May 1984, and that while it was realized that it was an aggressive schedule, it was believed that it could be met. After a complete review of all the data presented during the visit, the staff considers the May 1984 fuel load date optimistic. In order to meet it, Duke Power must sustain preoperational test completion rates that are greater than the industry average and significantly greater than the current completion rate at Catawba Unit 1. However, as it is our practice to use the utility's estimate of its fuel load date for our licensing review, we will continue to use the May 1984 date for planning purposes.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the project manager, Kahtan Jabbour, at (301) 492-7800.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

8309070099 830830
PDR ADOCK 05000413
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*NOTE: SEE PREVIOUS WHITE FOR CONCURRENCE

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DATE	8/19/83	8/19/83	8/22/83	8/22/83	8/30/83	

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Duke Power stated that its official estimated fuel load date for Catawba Unit 1 is May 1984, and that while it was realized that it was an aggressive schedule, it was believed that it could be met. After a complete review of all the data presented during the visit, the staff considers the May 1984 fuel load date optimistic. In order to meet it, Duke Power must sustain preoperational test completion rates that are greater than the industry average and significantly greater than the current completion rate at Catawba Unit 1. The staff also concludes that a realistic fuel load date will be during the third calendar quarter of 1984. However, as it is our practice to use the utility's estimate of its fuel load date for our licensing review, we will continue to use the May 1984 date for planning purposes.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the project manager, Kahtan Jabbour, at (301) 492-7800.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
 for Licensing
 Division of Licensing

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