

PDR



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

March 23, 1990

Mr. Hal B. Tucker
Vice President, Nuclear Production
Duke Power Company
P.O. Box 33198
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Dear Mr. ^{Hal} Tucker:

I am responding to your letter of February 16, 1990, concerning the unusual levels of stress experienced by Duke Power Company personnel during requalification examinations at the Catawba and McGuire plants. Although any testing process or emergency operational situation may be stressful, I would agree that the anxieties described by Mr. Davis in his memorandum to you of February 9, 1990, are undesirable. The administration process is not intended to produce such severe strain on examinees.

NRC management from Headquarters and from each Regional Office participated in the National Meeting on Operator Requalification sponsored by the Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) during the week of February 19, 1990, in Texas. As you noted, one of the topics discussed concerned those practices of NRC and licensees that create unnecessary stress for operators taking requalification examinations. We are evaluating the industry recommendations on improving the examination process made at that meeting.

We strongly encourage each facility licensee to review its examination process as we review our standards and practices in order to improve the process for administering these examinations. The common goal of our efforts should be to eliminate unnecessary stress while preserving the fairness and objectivity of the examination.

Thank you for advising me of your concerns. Your comments have helped to focus attention on an important aspect of the examination process, and I am confident that reasonable measures can be adopted to mitigate the undesirable stress levels experienced by your employees and their families.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Carr
Kenneth M. Carr

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