May 26, 1982

James L. Kelley, Chairman Administrative Judge Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D. C. 20555

Dr. Richard F. Foster Administrative Judge P.O. Box 4263 Sunriver, Oregon 97701 Dr. Dixon Callihan Administrative Judge Union Carbide Corporation P.O. Box Y Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

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In the Matter of DUKE POWER COMPANY, ET AL. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2) Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Dear Administrative Judges:

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The NRC Staff wishes to inform the Licensing Board that it does not intend to file a response to Applicants' "Motion for Protective Order," dated May 10, 1982, in which Applicants move that "the discovery sought by Palmetto Alliance in its First Set of Interrogatories and Requests to Produce not be had until final resolution of the pending objections to the Licensing Board's March 5, 1982 Order."

Palmetto Alliance served the same interrogatories and document requests upon the Staff, together with "Palmetto Alliance Motion to Require Staff Answers to Interrogatories." On May 7, 1982, the Staff responded that Intervenor's interrogatories and production requests were improper under the regulations, and that in any event, discovery should be suspended or stayed pending resolution of Staff and Applicants' objections to the underlying contentions.

In view of the Staff's position, the Staff believes it unnecessary to comment further on the outstanding discovery.

Sincerely,

George E. Johnson Counsel for NRC Staff

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