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DUKE POWER

March 21, 1994

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station

Docket Numbers 50-413 and -414

Technical Specification Revision to Change Method of Measuring Reactor Coolant System Flow Rate

By letter dated January 10, 1994, Duke Power Company submitted an application to change the method by which reactor coolant system flow is measured for Technical Specification surveillances at McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Stations. The proposed method involves normalizing the cold-leg elbow tap ΔP s to constants derived from previously-performed calorimetric heat balances. While initial NRC review indicates that the proposed method may be acceptable, some issues have emerged which require further study. However, the Staff has expressed a willingness to consider the proposed change, to be effective for a limited time at Catawba Unit 1 (the duration of the current fuel cycle), to enable Unit 1 to reach 100% power. Unit 1 is currently limited to 98% power due to an erroneous flow measurement. Therefore, Duke Power hereby submits this supplemental application, to justify the proposed change, as submitted in the January 10, 1994 letter, to be effective for the remainder of Catawba Unit 1 Cycle 8.

This proposed change is applicable to Unit 1 of Catawba Nuclear Station only.

The marked-up Technical Specification pages are contained in Attachment I, and additional justification to support the limited-duration change appears in Attachment II. This justification includes an analysis of the safety significance in the event that the low flow measurement were assumed to be correct, and other information requested by the Staff in a March 16, 1994 meeting. Because this application does not change the original intent or process of the original submittal, the No Significant Hazards analysis presented in the January 10, 1994 letter is considered to remain valid.

If any additional information is required, please call Scott Gewehr at (704) 382-7581.

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
March 21, 1994
Page 2

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