



DUKE POWER

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October 1, 1990

Susan S. Adamovitz, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Ga 30323

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Nos 50-413 and 50-414
PALSS Operability/Reliability
File No: CN-715.15

At the exit interview at Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) we agreed to the following commitments:

- 1) By September 1, 1990 - To repair the PALSS as designed and maintain \geq 75% reliability. Results: CNS has corrected all of the original problems and has obtained passing results on both panels, however due to new problems and repeated calibration drifts on old problems, CNS was not able to achieve a greater than 75% reliability. CNS has currently focused its skills on items 2 and 3.
- 2) If \geq 75% reliability cannot be maintained with the current design of the panels, CNS will either modify the current panels or replace the panels and have the panels operable. This will be accomplished by September 1, 1991. Results: Due to the three reasons listed below CNS has determined that it would be best to replace the current panels and have them operable by 9/1/91.
 - a) Modification costs to redesign the current panels to an operable/reliable condition would rival the new panel replacement costs.
 - b) The current maintenance/operation costs on the current panels are excessive. It would be cost-ineffective to continue operating the current panels on a long term basis.

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- c) If the current panels were redesigned, maintained and operated regularly it would still be very difficult to maintain a greater than 75% reliability.
- 3) We will expend great effort to achieve highest possible reliability of the PALSS panels between September 1, 1990 and September 1, 1991. Results: CNS has operated the Unit-1 panel a total of 19 test runs from the middle of July to the end of August and Unit-2 panel a total of 30 test runs from the first week in August to September 1. A total of 19 work requests have been written between the two units. CNS has corrected 7 problems on the Unit-1 panel and has corrected 14 problems on the Unit-2 panel. The work requests, problem solving and panel testing has involved 20 employees from Chemistry, Maintenance Engineering Services, Instrumentation and Electrical, Radiation Protection, Integrated Scheduling and Planning. Team effort from these groups amounted to 1040 man-hours. CNS will continue to test the panels once per month on each unit and will utilize all available resources to maintain the highest possible reliability. Any equipment problems will be handled in a expedient manner.

Very Truly Yours,



J. S. Forbes
Technical Services Superintendent
Catawba Nuclear Station

BDM/dlw

xc: R. M. Propst	W. M. McCollum
C. L. Hartzell	W. H. Miller
R. L. Painter	R. A. Jones
J. R. Wallace	J. W. Hampton
C. L. Therrien	T. E. Crawford
J. C. Taylor	B. D. McNeill
J. H. Amiri	J. E. Reece