



DUKE POWER

December 21, 1990

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414
Request for Technical Specification Changes (TS 3/4.6.5.1)
Increase in Surveillance Interval for Ice Weighing

Gentlemen:

Attached are License Amendment Requests to Appendix A, Technical Specifications (TS), of Facility Operating Licenses NPF-35 and NPF-52 for Catawba Nuclear Station Units 1 and 2. The requested amendments increase the required ice bed ice weight of the Ice Condenser and increase the surveillance interval for weighing ice from 9 months to 18 months. The TS Bases section is also revised to reflect these changes in TS 3/4.6.5.1.

The requested TS amendments will allow Duke Power to perform ice weighing coincident with refueling outages and eliminate the present need for on-line ice weighing. During on-line ice weighing the Ice Condenser baskets are twisted to ensure they are free from ice buildup and are not binding on the lattice steel support structure which could affect weighing accuracy. Duke Power has determined that this twisting of the ice baskets results in unexpected loads on ice basket U-bolts which secure the ice baskets to their mounting bracket assemblies. These unexpected loads on the U-bolts could result in bolt failure rendering the Ice Condenser inoperable. For this reason Catawba will no longer perform on-line ice weighing using the current on-line ice weighing techniques.

To prevent unnecessarily shutting the Units down prior to their respective refueling outages to weigh ice, Duke requests that TS 3/4.6.5.1 be revised to extend the ice weighing surveillance interval from 9 months to 18 months. Current ice basket weights and actual Ice Condenser sublimation rates have been analyzed, and the existing ice beds on both Units are adequate to ensure the safety analysis limits are not violated. Additionally, the TS required total ice weight and individual basket ice

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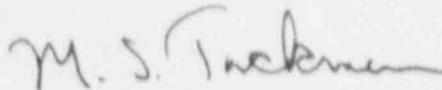
weights will be increased to account for a 15% sublimation rate. A 15% sublimation rate over an 18 month period is conservative based upon Catawba's operating history.

Attachment 1 contains the requested TS changes. Attachment 2 contains the justification and safety analysis to support the requested changes. Attachment 3 provides the analysis performed in accordance with 10 CFR 50.92 which concludes that the requested amendments do not involve a Significant Hazards Consideration. The requested amendments have been reviewed and approved in accordance with Catawba Technical Specifications 5.5.1.2 and 6.5.2.8, and have been determined to have no adverse safety or environmental impact.

It is requested that the NRC Staff review and approve these requested amendments by Friday, February 22, 1991. The current TS surveillance period for Unit 1 expires on Sunday, February 24, 1991 which includes the 25% extension allowed by TS 4.0.2.

Should there be any questions concerning these amendment requests or if additional information is required, please contact Mr. Robert G. Morgan at (704) 373-5196.

Very Truly Yours,



M. S. Tuckman

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Attachments

cc: Mr. Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta St., NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

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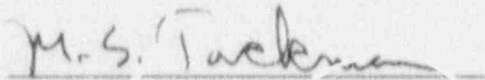
cc: (cont.)

Mr. R. E. Martin
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop OH3, OWFN
Washington, D. C. 20555

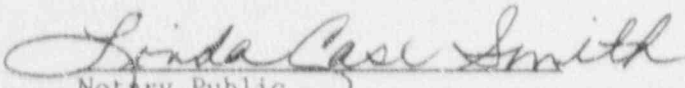
Mr. W. J. Orders
Senior NR Resident Inspector
Catawba Nuclear Station

Mr. Heyward Shealy, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
South Carolina Department of Health &
Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

M. S. Tuckman, being duly sworn, states that he is Vice President of Duke Power Company; that he is authorized on the part of said Company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this revision to the Catawba Nuclear Station license Nos. NPF-35 and NPF-52; and that all statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.


M. S. Tuckman, Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of December, 1990.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

May 6, 1995