



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

January 4, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-413
and 50-414

Mr. M. S. Tuckman
Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Duke Power Company
P.O. Box 1007
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201-1007

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

SUBJECT: CATAWBA MAINTENANCE TEAM INSPECTION (50-413/90-201; 50-414/90-201)

We are forwarding the report of the maintenance team inspection (MTI) performed from November 12 through 16 and 26 through 30, 1990, involving activities authorized by Operating License Nos. NPF-35 and NPF-52 for Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Regions II and IV, and contractor personnel, conducted this inspection. An exit meeting was held on November 30, 1990, in which we discussed the findings with you and members of your staff.

This inspection was performed as part of NRC's industry-wide effort to evaluate the effectiveness of maintenance activities at licensed power reactors. The team concludes that Catawba Nuclear Station was implementing a generally adequate maintenance program although areas for improvement and areas requiring increased management attention were identified in most areas inspected. Specific strengths and weaknesses are discussed in detail in the enclosed report and highlighted below. A noted strength was the maintenance support provided by Maintenance Engineering Services.

The most significant areas requiring improvement and increased attention were adherence to procedural requirements, weak procedures, and control of contractor personnel. The inspection team identified numerous instances in the mechanical and contracted maintenance areas where personnel failed to maintain procedural adherence. The plant had the benefit of a capable and qualified staff and a long-term procedures upgrade program was underway. However, the team was concerned with the technical and administrative adequacy of the site procedures currently in use. In addition, the team was concerned that appropriate levels of management were not routinely apprised of procedural inadequacies and implementation problems because the site's deficiency identification system was keyed to higher threshold items that are tied to operability and NRC reporting requirements. The team also found that while the site had a minimal reliance upon contractor personnel to

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perform maintenance activities, each of the observed contractor work efforts was deficient because minimal licensee oversight was provided for those contracted tasks.

Although no response is required to this report, we expect you to evaluate the concerns raised herein and implement appropriate corrective measures. Your actions will be reviewed during future NRC inspections. Any enforcement actions resulting from this inspection will be initiated by Region II under separate correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

Inspection Report 50-413/90-201
and 50-414/90-201

cc: See page 3

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cc: See page 3

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