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

November 1, 1984

DUPLICATE
NRC

'84 NOV -5 P3:10

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

Dr. Paul W. Purdom
Administrative Judge
235 Columbia Drive
Decatur, GA 30030

Dr. Richard F. Foster
Administrative Judge
P.O. Box 4263
Sunriver, Oregon 97702

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:

In its Partial Initial Decision issued on June 22, 1984, (LBP-84-24, 19 NRC 1418), the Licensing Board rejected a contention on hydrogen control for the Catawba facility on the ground that final Commission action on a generic rule addressing the same hydrogen control concerns was expected before the anticipated date of full power operation of Catawba. LBP-84-24, 19 NRC 1418, 1425 at n.3. The Board's ruling in this regard was based on the NRC Staff's expectation that a final hydrogen control rule would be submitted to, and acted upon by, the Commission well before a full power operating license would be needed for Catawba.

This is to advise you of the current status of the hydrogen control rule-making. As of this date, the Staff expects to submit a final hydrogen control rule to the Commission in this month of November but cannot predict a date for Commission action on the rule. It is the Staff's understanding that Catawba Unit 1 will be ready for initial criticality by early December 1984, for exceeding 5% of full power by mid-December 1984, and for reaching full power several months later.

Sincerely,

George E. Johnson
George E. Johnson
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Service List

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