



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20546

April 8, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-413  
and 50-414

Mr. M. S. Tuckman, Vice President  
Catawba Site  
Duke Power Company  
4800 Concord Road  
York, South Carolina 29745

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

SUBJECT: ACCUMULATOR TANK INSTRUMENTATION ISSUE - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION,  
UNITS 1 AND 2

Section 6.2 of Generic Letter 82-33 requested licensees to provide a report on their implementation of Regulatory Guide 1.97 (Revision 2), including methods for complying with the Commission's regulations and supporting technical justification for any proposed alternatives or deviations. A large number of exception requests were received from PWR licensees asking that the environmental qualification requirement for accumulator level and pressure monitoring instrumentation be relaxed from Category 2 to Category 3, which would allow commercial grade instruments to be used. Prior to 1987, these requests were denied by the staff. Since then, the exception requests have been considered as open items until a generic resolution could be found.

The staff has now reviewed the bases for these exceptions and has concluded that no operator action is based on this post-accident instrumentation and that it does not perform a safety function. In addition, successful performance of core cooling systems can be inferred from other environmentally qualified instrumentation. Since the instrumentation does not perform any post-accident safety function, its qualification requirements can be relaxed to Category 3. A copy of the Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

This issue has been addressed for the Catawba Nuclear Station by the inclusion of condition 2.c(12)(a) in License No. NPF-35 and condition 2.c(8)(a) in License No. NPF-52 as discussed in Supplement Nos. 4 and 5 to the Catawba Safety Evaluation Report. It was also addressed on June 4, 1991, by the issuance of an amendment to the licenses extending the schedule for resolution of this issue. The Final Safety Analysis Report, Section 1.8.1.29, indicates that this instrumentation meets the requirements for Regulatory Guide 1.97, Rev. 2, Category 3 instrumentation. On this basis, which is discussed in

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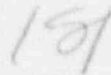
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further detail in the enclosed safety evaluation, the NRC staff finds that the requirements of the license conditions 2.c(12)(a) and 2.c(8)(a) have been met. Accordingly, the Duke Power Company may apply for removal of these conditions from the licenses for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Martin, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate 11-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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Mr. M. S. Tuckman  
Duke Power Company

Catawba Nuclear Station

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