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DUKE POWER

May 14, 1992

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414
Special Report
Meteorological Monitoring Instrumentation System

Pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.3.4, find attached a Special Report concerning the inoperability of the Meteorological Monitoring Instrumentation System.

Very truly yours,

M. S. Tuckman

CRL/SRMETS.592

Attachment

xc: S. D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator, Region II

R. E. Martin, ONRR

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Senior Resident Inspector

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SPECIAL REPORT

CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION

Meteorological Monitoring Instrumentation System Inoperable

On April 30 1992, during a non-routine surveillance, a malfunction of the Catawba Nuclear Station (CNS) Meteorological Instrumentation System, Automet V, was discovered. Failure to restore the system to operable status within the required period of seven (7) days resulted in submitting this Special Report pursuant to CNS Technical Specification 3.3.3.4.

At approximately 1000 hours on April 30, 1992, CNS Instrument and Electrical (IAE) Maintenance Personnel discovered a malfunction in the Automet V and initiated a work order for investigation and repair of the system. Investigation by CNS IAE Maintenance Personnel revealed that the Read Only Memory (ROM) board had failed. IAE Maintenance proceeded to replace the Automet V with a spare unit. Upon retrieving the spare unit, IAE Maintenance noticed the ROM board was missing from the spare unit. The controlling software is vendor supplied and cannot be modified by Duke personnel. A review of the system files revealed that this has happened in the past on two other occasions and the system was sent back to the manufacturer to be reprogrammed. Subsequent discussions with the manufacturer indicated that the chips on the board are not manufactured anymore and that the manufacturer does not have the capability of reprogramming the ROM board.

Duke Power Company is currently evaluating three options to restore the meteorological instrumentation to operable status:

- 1) Ship both units back to the manufacturer to have new boards built for the Automet V.
 - 2) Allow the Operator Aid Computer (OAC) to perform the function of the Automet V either by:
 - a. Adding additional cabling from the meteorological tower to the control room.
- OR
- b. Adding an analog to digital transmitter and receiver to multiplex the eight channels of data over the existing cable.

The meteorological data is currently being stored and accessed through a back up system, Environmental Data Logger (AQM-8000B). The meteorological data is available in the Technical Support Center, to Environmental Services in the OAC room via the VAX, and to Component Engineering at the Meteorological/Environmental Tower (MET).

The above options will be evaluated and implemented expeditiously to restore the Meteorological Monitoring Instrumentation System to operable status.