

DUKE POWER COMPANY

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VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

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January 18, 1985

Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Subject: McGuire Nuclear Station
Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370; 50-413 and 50-414
NRC/OIE Bulletin 84-03

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Mr. R. C. DeYoung's (NRC/OIE) letter dated August 24, 1984 transmitted NRC/OIE Bulletin 84-03 which concerned an incident in which the refueling cavity water seal failed and rapidly drained the refueling cavity, and requested certain actions to assure that fuel uncovering during refueling remains an unlikely event.

My letter of November 21, 1984 submitted Duke Power Company's response to this bulletin for the McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Power Stations which provided a summary of our evaluation of the potential for and consequences of a refueling cavity water seal failure for the McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Stations. Although the original seal was designed and tested by the manufacturer establishing the adequacy of the seal configuration, our response indicated that a reevaluation of the seal integrity would be conducted via subjecting the seal configuration used at McGuire and Catawba to a series of tests designed to determine the ultimate capacity of the seals (if the minimum acceptance criteria is not met on any test the seal was to be modified as necessary to obtain the required capacity). The response stated that the testing was scheduled to start (at McGuire) the week of November 26, 1984 and to be completed the week of December 3, 1984, with the results along with a description of any planned modifications (if necessary) to be provided by December 31, 1984. However, since this testing was not actually performed until December 17-21, 1984 (as documented in my December 31, 1984 letter), the submittal date for the test results was revised to January 31, 1985 or prior to the McGuire Unit 2/Cycle 2 refueling outage, whichever was earlier.

Please find attached the test results report. Based on an evaluation of the test results, it is concluded that McGuire Unit 1 and Catawba Unit 1 meet the minimum acceptance criteria with regard to seal capacity, and seal modifications are not required. McGuire Unit 2 as-built dimensions are scheduled to be recorded during the upcoming Cycle 2 refueling outage (currently scheduled to begin January 25, 1985). This will be evaluated against the test results and compared to the minimum acceptance criteria. Catawba Unit 2 is under construction. The test report will be revised and resubmitted when the remaining as-built data is recorded and subsequent evaluations completed (to determine the adequacy of the seals or if

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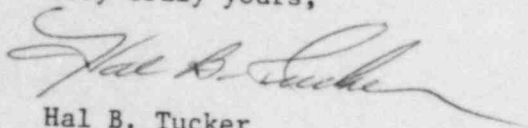
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modifications, and therefore further testing, is required) for McGuire Unit 2 and Catawba Unit 2. Duke is committed to maintain the minimum acceptance criteria of a seal capacity to withstand twice the normal static head of water.

Please advise if there are any questions or if further information is required.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements set forth herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Very truly yours,



Hal B. Tucker

PBN/glb

Attachment

cc: Mr. R. C. DeYoung, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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

Mr. W. T. Orders
NRC Resident Inspector
McGuire Nuclear Station

P. K. VanDoorn
NRC Resident Inspector
Catawba Nuclear Station