



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 26, 1996

50-369/370

50-413/414

Mr. M. S. Tuckman
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Duke Power Company
P. O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF DRAFT TECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORTS ON INDIVIDUAL PLANT EXAMINATION OF EXTERNAL EVENTS FIRE REVIEW - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2; AND MCGUIRE NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M83605, M83606, M83639, AND M83540)

Dear Mr. Tuckman:

On June 1 and 21, 1994, you submitted the Catawba and McGuire Individual Plant Examination of External Events (IPEEE). We requested additional information by letters dated September 15, 1995, which you responded to by letters dated November 17, 1995. Your submittals are still under review; however, our contractors have prepared draft Technical Evaluation Reports (TERs), ERI/NRC 95-506 and EPI/NRC 95-502, portions of which are enclosed. On the basis of the information available at this time, the TERs reveal a number of areas wherein our findings are incomplete or indeterminate with respect to enabling a determination of whether the Catawba and McGuire IPEEEs meet the objectives of Supplement 4 of Generic Letter 88-20.

Specifically, some of these concerns are described below:

1. The methods used for screening of fire areas tend to prematurely screen-out fire areas, obscure or potentially mask vulnerabilities, provide an erroneous perception of risk contributors, and underestimate core damage frequency.
2. The fire methodology employed is outdated and leads to a general underestimation of the significance of fires in the plant.
3. The use of a single component and a single initiating event as representative of the area tends to overlook other contributing components located in the same area.

In a telecon with your staff on March 21, 1996, we agreed that a meeting between our staffs would be appropriate to further discuss these concerns and others, as noted in the enclosed select pages of the TERs. We are enclosing these pages of the current draft TERs to facilitate the preparation of your staff for this meeting. A meeting date will be established by May 15, 1996.

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Mr. M. S. Tuckman

- 2 -

April 26, 1996

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this matter further, or to make arrangements for the above proposed meeting.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414,
50-369 and 50-370

Enclosure:
Technical Evaluation Reports
ERI/NRC 95-506 and ERI/NRC 95-502

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. M. S. Tuckman

- 2 -

April 26, 1996

Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this matter further, or to make arrangements for the above proposed meeting.

Sincerely,



Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc w/encl: See next page

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