

June 17, 1996

Mr. William R. McCollum
Site Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Power Company
4800 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745-9635

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - REVISED COMMITMENT
REGARDING USE OF BORONOMETER AS MEETING A REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97
COMMITMENT (TAC NOS. M95499 AND M95500)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

In Supplement 5 of the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-0954, Supp. 5), the staff found that Catawba either conforms to or is justified in deviating from Regulatory Guide 1.97 (regarding post-accident instrumentation). By letter dated October 23, 1990, Duke Power Company (DPC) revised its commitment regarding using the installed boronometer to provide information on post-accident reactivity control, proposing instead to twice-daily sampling for boron concentration. The boronometer would be removed. This revised commitment was accepted by the staff in a letter dated May 16, 1991.

By letter dated May 15, 1996, DPC further revised its commitment regarding boron sampling from twice-daily to once-daily, stating that the change is in line with industry practice and would allow for more efficient chemistry operations on the backshift.

The staff has reviewed the revised commitment in DPC's letter of May 15, 1996. There is no explicit requirement or guidance on the frequency of boron sampling. DPC's revised sampling frequency does not change the staff's finding in NUREG-0954, Supp. 5. The staff finds the revised commitment regarding post-accident boron sampling acceptable.

Sincerely,

/s/

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Peter S. Tam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Tam" clearly visible.

Peter S. Tam, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

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