

DUKE POWER COMPANY

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HAL B. TUCKER
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

July 24, 1985

TELEPHONE
(704) 373-4531

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Ms. E. G. Adensam, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 4

Re: Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2
Docket No. 50-414

Dear Mr. Denton:

On August 7, 1975 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-116 and CPPR-117 for the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2. The Construction Permits authorized Duke Power Company to construct two pressurized water reactors at a site owned by Duke on the shore of Lake Wylie in York County, South Carolina.

Fuel loading of the Catawba units has been rescheduled several times since the decision was made in 1972 to construct the units. Originally, the units were scheduled for fuel loading in December, 1978 and December, 1979. Duke's construction permit application reflected those dates. In August, 1974, prior to the issuance of the construction permits but after granting of a LWA for the station, Duke announced a significant cutback in its construction program. These cutbacks were necessitated primarily because of critical conditions existing in the financial markets at that time. The company indicated that delay of construction and reduction in immediate capital requirements would not effect the ultimate need for the units but would effect their commercial operating schedule. The two units at Catawba were rescheduled then for fuel loading in 1980 and 1981, two years later than on the previous schedule. Work had begun at Catawba under the LWA and except where needed to protect that work construction at Catawba was discontinued until September, 1975. The construction completion dates reflected in the construction permit issued by the NRC were consistent with the August, 1974 rescheduling of the Catawba units.

On December 13, 1976 Duke announced a second rescheduling of the Catawba units. The completion dates for the units were determined to be February, 1981 and August, 1982 for Catawba Units 1 & 2 respectively. The revisions of these schedules were based on new estimates of load growth and electrical needs made by the company and confirmed by independent studies of the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Duke's intensive load management program was a major factor contributing to the reduced forecasts and the resulting changes in schedules. Other factors which contributed to this management decision to reschedule the units included a lowering of expected population growth, continuation of conservation efforts by customers, and a more moderate growth by industry.

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On July 18, 1979, Duke's management determined that the Catawba Nuclear Station could not be completed as scheduled in spite of the company's continuing efforts to complete the station as expeditiously as possible. Fuel loading dates for the two units were rescheduled for April, 1983 and October, 1984 for Units 1 & 2 respectively. This rescheduling was necessitated by the increase in regulation of nuclear generating plants, unprecedented engineering requirements for piping supports, and expanded preoperational testing.

By letter dated July 28, 1980, Duke advised the NRC that the fuel load dates had been changed to August, 1983 and February, 1985 for Units 1 and 2 respectively. This rescheduling was a result of increasing work being required by the NRC.

During the first quarter of 1982 a detailed schedule reassessment was completed which resulted in a delay in the Unit 1 fuel load date to October, 1984 and October, 1986 for Unit 2. This change was necessitated by delays in construction commodity erection and an increase in the scope of safety changes required following the accident at TMI-2.

On January 26, 1983, Duke advised the NRC that cancellation of the two units of the Cherokee Nuclear Station and the near completion of the McGuire Nuclear Station had allowed Duke to shift more of our experienced workers to Catawba and to complete construction without many of the anticipated delays. Target fuel load dates for Units 1 & 2 were pulled back to May, 1984 and October, 1985, respectively.

On July 18, 1984, the NRC issued the Facility Operating License for Unit 1 which allowed Duke to commence fuel loading and pre-critical testing. With Unit 1 complete and in startup testing, the remaining work activities for Unit 2 were reassessed in late 1984. On January 18, 1985, Duke advised the NRC that the fuel load date for Unit 2 had been changed to January, 1986. This change was attributable to the following:

- 1) A delay in the transfer of construction workforce from Unit 1 to Unit 2 which contributed to delays in commodity erection and to system completion thereby delaying downstream milestones leading to fuel load.
- 2) The Need to install new tubes in the main condenser following the discovery of a significant number of pitted tubes.

On June 4, 1981, the NRC issued an order extending the construction completion dated specified in CPPR-117 to September 1, 1985. Based on the above factors and Duke's experience in completing and bringing into operation Catawba Unit 1, it is requested that the latest completion dated specified in CPPR-117 be extended to July 1, 1986.

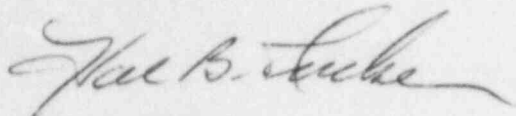
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Enclosed, in accordance with 10 CFR 170.12, is a check in the amount of \$150.00 as payment of the application fee.

Very truly yours,



H. B. Tucker

WLH:slb

Enclosure

cc: Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II
101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Resident Inspector
Catawba Nuclear Station

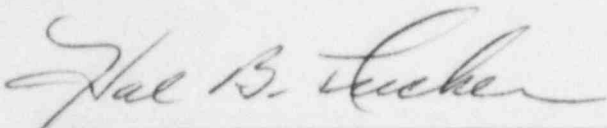
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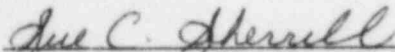
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HAL B. TUCKER, being duly sworn, states that he is Vice President of Duke Power Company, that he is authorized on the part of said Company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this request for an extension of time for completion of Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2; and that all statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge.



Hal B. Tucker, Vice President

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24th day of July, 1985.



Sue C. Sherrill, Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

September 20, 1989