

August 27, 1998

Duke Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. G. R. Peterson
Site Vice President
Catawba Site
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: LICENSEE RESPONSES TO NOTICES OF VIOLATION AND NRC ACKNOWLEDGMENT LETTERS

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This letter is to inform you of a change being implemented by Region II regarding the administrative processing of licensee responses to Notices of Violation (NOV).

Licensees are required to respond to NOV's in accordance with 10 CFR 2.201 or as described in the Notice itself. Historically, upon receipt of such a response, Region II would review the response and provide a written letter to the licensee acknowledging the NOV response within approximately 30 days. Many of the responses were routine and required little or no additional communications with the licensee to determine the licensee's position regarding the issues or to determine the adequacy of corrective actions. Therefore, in most cases, the letters served only to document compliance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, and provided no additional substantive information regarding the issues. These letters were then distributed similarly to the original NOV.

In an overall effort to streamline processes and improve efficiency, Region II is beginning a process by which NOV responses will be formally acknowledged as part of periodically issued Integrated Inspection Reports. Specifically, licensee NOV responses which accept the violations and require no additional correspondence or communications between the NRC and the licensee, will be acknowledged in the cover letter of the next Integrated Inspection Report following receipt of the response. This additional paragraph in the cover letter will reference the specific NOV, date of receipt of the licensee's response, and compliance with 10 CFR 2.201.

Notwithstanding the above, letters acknowledging licensee NOV responses which fail to comply with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.201, involve denials or proposed impositions of civil penalties, or require additional communications or clarifying information from licensees will be reviewed and acknowledged by separate correspondence from the routine Integrated Inspection Report.

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This information is being provided to you to facilitate any changes which may be required in your tracking and administrative systems as a result of this change. If you should have any questions regarding this letter or the process in general, please contact Anne T. Boland, Director, Enforcement and Investigations Coordination staff at 404-562-4421.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Loren R. Plisco, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414
License Nos. NPF-35, NPF-52

cc: M. S. Kitlan
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
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OFFICE	RII:DRP											
SIGNATURE												
NAME	COgle:sajw											
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