



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 29, 1988

Docket Nos.: 50-413  
50-414

Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President  
Nuclear Production Department  
Duke Power Company  
422 South Church Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28242

Dear Mr. Tucker:

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGES REGARDING SNUBBERS - CATAWBA  
NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TACS 66790/66791)

By letter dated December 15, 1987, and supplemented April 15, 1988, you proposed five changes to Catawba Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.7.8 regarding snubbers. These are: Change 1 would delete an optional sampling plan for snubber inspection (Surveillance Requirement 4.7.8e.3)--the "55" snubber plan) which has never been used at Catawba; Change 2 would allow deletion of the "REJECT" line from Figure 4.7-1 and in the "37" functional test plan (Surveillance Requirement 4.7.8e.2)); Change 3 proposes an alternate sampling plan, not yet approved by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), involving grouping of snubber failure modes; Change 4 would allow deletion of the phrase "of a type" from Surveillance Requirement 4.7.8e; and Change 5 would delete the requirement to inspect snubber attachment hardware (Surveillance Requirement 4.7.8c.--Visual Inspection Acceptance Criteria) because this inspection is already under the requirements of ASME Code, Section XI.

TS changes 2 and 5 were approved by the issuance, on September 26, 1988, of license amendments 52 and 45 for Catawba Units 1 and 2, respectively. For changes 1, 3, and 4, you state, among other things, that these are proposed to implement the recommendations contained in the most recent draft document (i.e., draft 6, revision 2) issued by the ASME Operating and Maintenance (OM-4) working group.

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Mr. H. B. Tucker

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The NRC staff plans to provide guidance on snubbers by the issuance of the approved Standard Technical Specifications in the latter part of 1989. Staff positions on several matters, including your proposed changes 1, 3, and 4, would be addressed at that time. Therefore, we plan to take no further action on these changes.

If you have questions regarding this denial, please contact Kahtan Jabbour at (301) 492-1496.

Sincerely,

F/Lawrence P. Crocker  
David B. Matthews, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Mr. H. B. Tucker  
Duke Power Company

Catawba Nuclear Station

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