

February 17, 1999

EA 99-019

EA 99-020

Seaboard Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. G. R. Peterson
Site Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-413/98-12 AND 50-414/98-12
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Peterson,

On January 23, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at your Catawba Nuclear Station. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Based on the results of that inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection report.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in this report. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

In addition, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The apparent violation involves the inability of the auxiliary feedwater system for either unit to perform its intended safety function under certain accident conditions. Since original construction, a design deficiency existed involving a piping configuration which could have allowed air into the suction piping of all three auxiliary feedwater pumps for a given unit, making them susceptible to failure.

A Notice of Violation is presently not being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

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PDR ADOCK 05060413
G PDR

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Loren R. Plisco, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report 50-413/98-12, 50-414/98-12

cc w/encls:
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cc w/encls cont'd: (See page 3)

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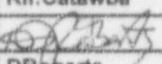
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NRC Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulator Commission
4830 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

*See previous concurrence page for signatures.

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