

Mr. G. R. Peterson
 Site Vice President
 Catawba Nuclear Station
 Duke Energy Corporation
 4800 Concord Road
 York, South Carolina 29745-9635

AUG 20 1999

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 2 RE: RELIEF REQUEST NO. 99-01
 (TAC NO. MA4685)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

By letter dated January 18, 1999, Duke Energy Corporation (Duke) requested that the NRC staff approve a proposed relief from the volumetric examination requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), Section XI, for Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2. Specifically, Duke stated that the required volumetric examination was restricted at the Pressurizer Nozzles and at the Residual Heat Removal Exchanger Nozzles due to configuration.

The staff has reviewed and evaluated the information provided by Duke. Details of the staff's review are set forth in the enclosed Safety Evaluation. The staff determined that code requirements are impractical for the situation at Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 2. In addition, the staff considered that the relief requested is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Section 50.55a(g)(6)(i), the staff authorizes Duke's request for relief.

This completes the NRC staff's efforts. If you have any questions, please contact the Project Manager, Peter Tam, at 301-415-1451.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
 Richard L. Emch, Jr., Section Chief
 Project Directorate II
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-414

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
 cc w/encl: See next page

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* See previous concurrence

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard L. Emch, Jr.".

Richard L. Emch, Jr., Section Chief
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-414

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Catawba Nuclear Station

cc:

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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