

DUKE POWER COMPANY

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Doc. File

February 17, 1986

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

Re: Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1
Docket No. 50-413 G

Dear Dr. Grace:

Pursuant to Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.3 and 6.9.2, please find attached a Special Report concerning the valid failure of Diesel Generator 1B which occurred on January 18, 1986.

Very truly yours,

Hal B. Tucker

Hal B. Tucker

RWO:slb

Attachment

cc: Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC Resident Inspector
Catawba Nuclear Station

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SPECIAL REPORT
DIESEL GENERATOR 1B VALID FAILURE

On January 18, 1986, a valid failure occurred on Diesel Generator (D/G) 1B. This valid failure was the fourth failure within the last 74 valid tests for the Catawba Unit 1 diesel generators. Please note that as of January 18, 1986, the 1A and 1B D/G's had only completed 74 valid tests (this includes the four valid failures).

The cause of the valid failure was an apparent equipment malfunction in the starting air system. We have not been able to identify specifically the component that malfunctioned. Attempts to reconstruct this failure during subsequent start attempts have not been successful. To avoid failures of this type in the future, procedure changes will be made to include necessary prestart checks that must be completed each time the D/G is to be started. The 1B D/G was out of service for 8 hours and 52 minutes. After this failure, the testing frequency is once every 3 days which is in accordance with Section C.2.d.4 of Regulatory Guide 1.108 Revision 1 (Periodic Testing of Diesel Generator Units used as Onsite Electric Power Systems at Nuclear Power Plants).