

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDUKE POWER COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKET NOS. 50-413, AND 50-414NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-35 and NPF-52 issued to the Duke Power Company, et al., (the licensee) for operation of the Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, located in York County, South Carolina.

The amendments would revise Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.4.5, "Steam Generators" and its associated bases, and involve changes to the steam generator tube plugging criteria. The changes are applicable to Catawba Unit 1 only; however, Unit 2 is included because the Technical Specifications for both Units are combined in one document. This revision proposes adoption of the F* distance for steam generator tube plugging which is similar to that which was granted for the McGuire Nuclear Station through the issuance of Amendments 59 and 40 for Units 1 and 2, respectively, on August 19, 1986. The F* distance represents a length of continuous tube expansion in the tubesheet such that tube pullout would not occur during either normal operation or postulated accident condition loadings. The F* distance is measured from the bottom of the roll expansion transition or the top of the tubesheet if the bottom of the roll expansion is above the top of the tubesheet. For Catawba Unit 1, the F* distance is equal to 1.31 inches.

On the basis of Westinghouse's evaluation, it is determined that tubes with any degradation within the tubesheet region below the F* distance can be left in service. Tubes with degradation located a distance less than F* should

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be removed from service by plugging in accordance with TS requirements. The criteria in Westinghouse's evaluation have been demonstrated to result in tube integrity considerations commensurate with the criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.121, "Bases for Plugging Degraded PWR Steam Generator Tubes."

These revisions to the technical specifications would be made in response to the licensee's application for amendments dated October 8, 1987. Additional submittals may be requested by the Commission during the course of its review of this matter.

Existing plant Technical Specifications for tube plugging criteria apply throughout the tube length and do not take into account the reinforcing effect of the tubesheet on the external surface of the tube. In reality, the presence of the tubesheet will constrain the tube and will complement its integrity in the region by precluding tube deformation beyond its expanded outside diameter. The resistance to both tube rupture and tube collapse is significantly strengthened by the tubesheet. In addition, the proximity of the tubesheet significantly affects the leak behavior of throughwall tube cracks in this region, i.e., no significant leakage relative to that allowed by plant Technical Specifications is to be expected. Based on these factors, consideration of a revised criterion as proposed by the licensee, or an alternative criterion which may be requested by the licensee for tube plugging, may be justified for tube defects located below a predetermined depth within the tubesheet region.

Prior to issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

By November , 1987, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendments to the subject facility operating licenses

and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the

petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendments under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

A request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner or representative for the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at (800) 342-6000 (in Missouri (800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to D. S. Hood: petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Executive Legal Director, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, and to Mr. Albert Carr, Duke Power Company, P.O. Box 33189, 422 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28242, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request, should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated October 8, 1987, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the York County Library, 138 East Black Street, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 21st day of October 1987.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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