

April 30, 1998

EA 98-208

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

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-413/98-03 AND 50-414/98-03

Dear Mr. Peterson,

On April 11, 1998, 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, apparent violations were identified and are 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 violations are of concern because of the number of noncompliances identified, and the non-conservative decision-making concerning Technical Specification surveillance test failures and the implications for system operability. No Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

An open predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for May 14, 1998. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violations is required at this time.

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PDR ADOCK 05000413
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
Charles A. Casto (for)

Loren R. Plisco, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report 50-413/98-03, 50-414/98-03

cc w/encl:
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G. A. Copp

Licensing - EC050

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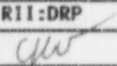
NRC Resident Inspector

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

4830 Concord Road

York, SC 29745

*SEE ATTACHED CONCURRENCE SHEET FOR SIGNATURES.

OFFICE	RII:CATAWBA	RII:CATAWBA	RII:CATAWBA	RII:DRP	RII:DRP	RII:EICS	
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NAME	DROBERTS	RFRANOVICH	MGILES <i>MAG</i>	RCARROLL	COgle	ABoland	
DATE	4/30/98	4/30/98	4/30/98	4/ /98	4/ /98	4/30/98	4/ /98
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