

**From:** Mahoney, Michael  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 10:31 AM  
**To:** Sigmon, Chet Austin  
**Cc:** Art Zaremba  
**Subject:** Acceptance Review - Duke Fleet - RA-19-0352 - Proposed Alternative for Reactor Vessel Closure Stud Examinations (L-2020-LLR-0156)

Hi Chet,

By letter RA-19-0352, dated December 1, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20336A033), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (Duke Energy, the licensee) submitted a relief request for Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2, Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, and Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1. Duke Energy requested NRC approval of a proposed alternative to the requirement to perform inservice volumetric or surface examinations of Examination Category B-G-1, Item Number B6.20, Reactor Pressure Vessel Closure Studs on a 10-year ISI interval.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(z)(1) and 50.55a(z)(2) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternative would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 500 hours to complete. Due to the complexity of the review the NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 18 months, which is July 2022.

If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager. These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review

of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks

**Mike Mahoney**

Project Manager, LPL2-2

Division of Operating Reactor Licensing

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