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December 14, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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Subject: McGuire Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370
Catawba Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414
Duke's Use of FCF's Extended Burnup Evaluation
Topical Report, BAW-10186P-A

REFERENCE: 1. Framatome Cogema Fuels, Extended Burnup
Evaluation, BAW-10186P-A, June 1997.
2. B&W Fuel Company, Safety Criteria and
Methodology for Acceptable Cycle Reload
Analyses, BAW-10179-A, August 1993.

By letter dated February 24, 1999 and March 3, 1999, the NRC approved Duke's use of Framatome Cogema Fuels (FCF) topical report (Reference 1) on high burnup fuel for Catawba and McGuire Nuclear Stations, respectively. Duke has completed its review of the safety evaluation contained in the above NRC letter that was sent to Duke, as well as all commitments in the referenced topical report. In so doing, Duke has re-performed its cladding stress analysis to be consistent with these commitments.

Duke is hereby informing the NRC that the Duke cladding stress analysis has been re-performed to the new requirement of Reference 1, specifically to include the wall thinning associated with cladding corrosion (Section 2.3.1.1 of Reference 1), including the use of $S_m = 2/3$ of the minimum specified unirradiated yield strength at operating temperature 650°F (Section 4.2.5.1 of Reference 2). This is the only

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change necessary to meet the commitments of BAW-10186 and is consistent with FCF's NRC approved cladding stress analysis methodology.

Duke commits to use this methodology for all McGuire and Catawba Nuclear Station fuel clad with Zircaloy-4, as approved in the NRC safety evaluation letter mentioned above, beginning with Catawba 2 Cycle 11 (scheduled to begin operation in Spring 2000), and continue with all subsequent fuel cycles.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to A.D. Jones-Young (704) 382-3154.

Very truly yours,



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