

August 29, 2002

Mr. G. R. Peterson
Site Vice President
Catawba Nuclear Station
Duke Energy Corporation
4800 Concord Road
York, South Carolina 29745-9635

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 RE: BULLETIN 2002-01,
"REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR
COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," 15-DAY RESPONSE (TAC
NOS. MB4535 AND MB4536)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On March 18, 2002, the staff issued Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. Bulletin 2002-01 also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary will satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 50.54(f) if they are unable to provide the information or they can not meet the requested completion dates.

You provided your 15-day Bulletin response by letter dated April 1, 2002, as supplemented by letter dated June 12, 2002. The staff finds that you have provided the requested information, and has concluded that your plants do not appear to have conditions similar to those which lead to the degradation at Davis-Besse. However, the staff may issue questions to confirm or verify the information that was provided in your 15-day response to Bulletin 2002-01.

We will complete a full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01 after we review your response to Items 2 and 3 of the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Chandu P. Patel, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

cc: See next page

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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