



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 4, 2009

Mr. J. R. Morris
Site Vice President
Duke Power Company, LLC
d/b/a Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000413/2009001 AND 05000414/2009001)**

Dear Mr. Morris:

On February 10, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Catawba Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security Related Information" will include the Security Cornerstone performance review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Catawba Units 1 and 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. We also plan on conducting several non-ROP inspections, which involve: (1) reactor coolant system dissimilar metal butt welds (Temporary Instruction (TI)-2515/172); (2) hydrogen igniter backup power verification (TI-2515/174); (3) the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; (4) emergency response organization drill/exercise performance indicator program review (TI-2515/175); and (5) operator licensing examinations. In addition, TI-2515/173, Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative, will be performed at your facility prior to August 30, 2010. In the near term, we will contact you to assess your readiness for this inspection and then finalize our schedule accordingly.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through June 30, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4607 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jonathan H. Bartley, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-413, 50-414, 72-045
License Nos.: NPF-35, NPF-52

Enclosure: Catawba Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: (See page 3)

cc w/encls:

Randy D. Hart
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Duke Power Company, LLC d/b/a Duke
Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. L. Gill, Jr.
Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Issues & Industry Affairs
Duke Power Company, LLC d/b/a Duke
Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Dhiaa M. Jamil
Group Executive and Chief Nuclear Officer
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Kathryn B. Nolan
Senior Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

Lisa F. Vaughn
Associate General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

Senior Resident Inspector
Duke Energy Corporation
Catawba Nuclear Station
U.S. NRC
4830 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

David A. Repka
Winston Strawn LLP
Electronic Mail Distribution

North Carolina MPA-1
Suite 600
P.O. Box 29513
Raleigh, NC 27525-0513

Susan E. Jenkins
Director, Division of Waste Management
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
S.C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. Mike Gandy
Division of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S.C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

Beverly O. Hall
Chief, Radiation Protection Section
Department of Environmental Health
N.C. Department of Environmental
Commerce & Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Elizabeth McMahon
Assistant Attorney General
S.C. Attorney General's Office
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Vanessa Quinn
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW
Room 840
Washington, DC 20472

Steve Weatherman, Operations Analyst
North Carolina Electric Membership
Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Manager of York County
York County Courthouse
York, SC 29745

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

Peggy Force
Assistant Attorney General
State of North Carolina
P.O. Box 629
Raleigh, NC 27602

Catawba
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			EB3ISI - UNIT 2 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
2	03/16/2009	03/20/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3TI172 - TI-172 RCS DM BUTT WELDS		1
2	03/16/2009	03/20/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
			EB3SGISI - UIT 2 STEAM GENERATOR INSERVICE INSP		2
2	03/23/2009	03/27/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			TI-174 - H2 IGNITER BACKUP POWER VERIFI		1
1,2	04/01/2009	04/05/2009	IP 2515/174	Hydrogen Igniter Backup Power Verification	
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		2
1,2	04/15/2009	07/15/2009	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATIONAL INSPECTION		2
1,2	06/01/2009	09/15/2009	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			PSB1- RP - RP PUBLIC BASELINE INSPECTION		4
1,2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1,2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment	
1,2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems	
1,2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Program	
1,2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			EB1-CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION		7
1,2	07/06/2009	07/10/2009	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1,2	07/27/2009	07/31/2009	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1,2	08/10/2009	08/14/2009	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1,2	08/24/2009	08/28/2009	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INSPECTION		1
1,2	07/20/2009	07/24/2009	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1,2	07/20/2009	07/24/2009	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
1,2	07/20/2009	07/24/2009	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1,2	07/20/2009	07/24/2009	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1,2	07/20/2009	07/24/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM PREP		5
1	11/16/2009	11/20/2009	V23324	CATAWBA/DECEMBER 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			EB3ISI - UNIT 1 INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	11/30/2009	12/04/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			EB3TI172 - TI-172 RCS DM BUTT WELDS		1
1	11/30/2009	12/04/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

Catawba
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 1		4
1	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	V23324	CATAWBA/DECEMBER 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM - WEEK 2		4
1	12/14/2009	12/18/2009	V23324	CATAWBA/DECEMBER 2009 EXAM AT POWER FACILITIES	
			EB3 HS - HEAT SINK INSPECTION		1
1,2	01/25/2010	01/29/2010	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			PSB1EP - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		3
1,2	03/08/2010	03/12/2010	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1,2	03/08/2010	03/12/2010	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1,2	03/08/2010	03/12/2010	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			TFPI 805 - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION		1
1,2	04/26/2010	04/30/2010	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
1,2	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
			OL RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION		2
1,2	06/14/2010	06/18/2010	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

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Enclosure

07200045 - DUKE ENERGY CO

Inspection / Activity Plan

03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	04/15/2009 07/15/2009	ISFSI IP 60853	- ISFSI CONSTRUCTION (ROADWAY) INSPECTION On-Site Fabrication Of Components And Construction On An ISFSI	1

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure