



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

March 3, 2004

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000413/2004001 AND 05000414/2004001)**

Dear Mr. Jamil

On February 3, 2004, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Catawba Nuclear Station. The end-of-cycle review for Catawba involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2003. 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 will allow you an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Catawba 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 only reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2005, as well as the following non-reactor oversight program inspections: (1) routine inspections of activities associated with your planned Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation; (2) safety issue inspections concerning the reactor pressure vessel lower head penetration nozzles (NRC Bulletin 2003-02) and the reactor containment sump (NRC Bulletin 2003-01); and (3) operator licensing examinations.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2005. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

As you are aware, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these

requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2004, we plan to continue inspections of order implementation combined with newly developed portions of the security baseline inspection program.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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 our inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4550 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert C. Haag, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Catawba Inspection/Activity Plan

DEC

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cc w/encl:

Lee A. Keller (CNS)
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Lisa Vaughn
Legal Department (PB05E)
Duke Energy Corporation
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28242

Anne Cottingham
Winston and Strawn
Electronic Mail Distribution

North Carolina MPA-1
Electronic Mail Distribution

Henry J. Porter, Assistant Director
Div. of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
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

Richard P. Wilson, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
S. C. Attorney General's Office
Electronic Mail Distribution

Vanessa Quinn
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

North Carolina Electric
Membership Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Peggy Force
Assistant Attorney General
N. C. Department of Justice
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Manager of York County, SC
Electronic Mail Distribution

Piedmont Municipal Power Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. L. Gill, Jr., Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Licensing
Duke Energy Corporation
526 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28201-0006

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
700 Galleria Parkway SE
Atlanta, GA 30339-5943

Catawba
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2004 - 09/30/2005

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	OL EP	- EMERGENCY EXERCISE	2			
1,2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		03/15/2004	03/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		03/15/2004	03/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/15/2004	03/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB2 SW	- SERVICE WATER WELDING REVIEW	2			
1,2	IP 55050	Nuclear Welding General Inspection Procedure		03/22/2004	03/24/2004	Other Routine
	EB1-TFP	- TFP PRE-INSPECTION VISIT	4			
1,2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		05/17/2004	05/21/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-TFP	- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION	4			
1,2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		06/21/2004	06/25/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-MODS	- MODIFICATIONS/10CFR50.59	4			
1,2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		07/26/2004	07/30/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		07/26/2004	07/30/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PB1PIR	- PI&R INSPECTION	4			
1,2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		08/09/2004	08/13/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		08/23/2004	08/27/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OL RQ	- REQUAL INSPECTION	2			
1,2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PS-SEC	- SECURITY	2			
1,2	IP 7113001	Access Authorization		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7113002	Access Control		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/16/2004	08/20/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OL PREP	- INITIAL EXAM PREP	3			
1	V23229	CATAWBA/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		09/13/2004	09/17/2004	Not Applicable
	EB2-ISI	- INSERVICE INSPECTION-U2	1			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK 1	2			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Baseline Inspections
	2515/152	- U-2 2515/152: RPV LOWER HEAD PENETRATION	1			
2	IP 2515/152	Reactor Pressure Vessel Lower Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin 2003-02)		09/27/2004	10/01/2004	Safety Issues

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

Catawba
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2004 - 09/30/2005

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	2515/153	- TI 2515/153 RX CONTAINMT SUMP BLOCKAGE	1			
2	IP 2515/153	Reactor Containment Sump Blockage (NRC Bulletin 2003-01)		09/27/2004	10/01/2004	Safety Issues
	EB2SGISI	- STEAM GENERATOR INSERVICE INSPECTION-U2	1			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		10/04/2004	10/07/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OL EXAM	- INITIAL EXAM	4			
1	V23229	CATAWBA/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		10/04/2004	10/08/2004	Not Applicable
	PS-RP	- RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE WEEK 2	2			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/04/2004	10/08/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/04/2004	10/08/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		10/04/2004	10/08/2004	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/04/2004	10/08/2004	Baseline Inspections
	60851	- ISFSI CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION	2			
1,2	IP 60851	Design Control Of ISFSI Components		01/10/2005	01/14/2005	Other Routine
1,2	IP 60852	ISFSI Component Fabrication By Outside Fabricators		01/10/2005	01/14/2005	Other Routine
1,2	IP 60853	On-Site Fabrication Of Components And Construction On An ISFSI		01/10/2005	01/14/2005	Other Routine
	EB2-MR	- MAINTENANCE RULE	1			
1,2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		03/14/2005	03/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
	OL EP	- EP INSPECTION	1			
1,2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		03/21/2005	03/25/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/21/2005	03/25/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-HS	- HEAT SINK	1			
1,2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		04/11/2005	04/15/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-ISI	- INSERVICE INSPECTION-U1	1			
1,2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		05/02/2005	05/06/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB1SSDPC	- SSDPC PRE-INSPECTION VISIT	2			
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
	PS-RP	- RP PUBLIC BASLINE	3			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB1SSDPC	- SAFETY SYSTEM DESIGN & PERF. CAPABILITY	5			
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/19/2005	09/23/2005	Baseline Inspections

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