



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 2, 2005

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 05000413/2005001 AND 05000414/2005001)

Dear Mr. Jamil:

On February 8, 2005, 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, 2004. 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. The following performance review and the enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate end-of-cycle performance review letter, designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390," will include the physical protection review and a resultant inspection plan.

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). It should be noted that after the end of the assessment period, Catawba Nuclear Station was cited a Severity Level III violation (with no civil penalty) for the failure to provide complete and accurate information with respect to a proposed license amendment addressing mixed oxide fuel assemblies and related dose calculations. This Severity Level III violation was discussed during the end-of-cycle plant performance assessment, and its associated corrective actions will be followed up on during a future baseline inspection. Therefore, we plan to conduct only reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2006, 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 pressurizer penetration nozzles and steam space piping connections (NRC Bulletin 2004-01); and (3) operator licensing examinations.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2006. 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 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 our inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (404) 562-4540 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**//RA//**

Michael E. Ernstes, 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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**Catawba**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2005 - 09/30/2006**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>PS2-EP - EP INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		03/14/2005	03/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		03/14/2005	03/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		03/14/2005	03/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		03/14/2005	03/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/14/2005	03/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MTN-MR - MR EFFECTIVENESS</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		03/21/2005	03/25/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MTN-ISI - U1 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		05/16/2005	05/20/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MTNT1160 - 2515/160 U-1: PZR PENETRATION NOZZLES</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 2515/160	Pzr Pene Nozzles & Stm Space Piping Connections in U.S. PWRs [NRC Bulletin 2004-01]		05/16/2005	05/20/2005	Safety Issues
	<b>MTNSGSI - U1 STEAM GENERATOR ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		05/23/2005	05/27/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MNTISFSI - ISFSI PAD CONSTRUCTION</b>		<b>2</b>			
1,2	IP 60853	On-Site Fabrication Of Components And Construction On An ISFSI		05/31/2005	06/03/2005	Other Routine
	<b>MTN-HS - HEAT SINK</b>		<b>1</b>			
1,2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		08/01/2005	08/05/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1SSDPC - SSDPC PRE-INSPECTION VISIT</b>		<b>2</b>			
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP - RP PUBLIC BASLINE</b>		<b>4</b>			
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 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/22/2005	08/26/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1SSDPC - SAFETY SYSTEM DESIGN &amp; PERF. CAPABILITY</b>		<b>6</b>			
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/19/2005	09/23/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		10/03/2005	10/07/2005	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL PREP - INITIAL PREP</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23229	CATAWBA/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		11/14/2005	11/18/2005	Not Applicable
	<b>OL EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	V23229	CATAWBA/EXAMS AT POWER FACILITIES		12/05/2005	12/09/2005	Not Applicable
	<b>EB1-MODS - MODIFICATIONS/10CFR50.59</b>		<b>3</b>			
1,2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		02/13/2006	02/17/2006	Baseline Inspections

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

Enclosure

**Catawba**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**03/01/2005 - 09/30/2006**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>EB1-MODS - MODIFICATIONS/10CFR50.59</b>		<b>3</b>			
1,2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		02/13/2006	02/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS-RP - RP OCCUPATIONAL BASELINE - WEEK 1</b>		<b>3</b>			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MTN-ISI - U2 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		03/27/2006	03/31/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MTNT1160 - 2515/160 U-2: PZR PENETRATION NOZZLES</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 2515/160	Pzr Pene Nozzles & Stm Space Piping Connections in U.S. PWRs [NRC Bulletin 2004-01]		03/27/2006	03/31/2006	Safety Issues
	<b>MTNSGISI - U2 STEAM GENERATOR ISI</b>		<b>1</b>			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		04/03/2006	04/07/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS1-RP - RP OCCPATIONAL BASELINE - WEEK 2</b>		<b>3</b>			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/03/2006	04/07/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/03/2006	04/07/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		04/03/2006	04/07/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/03/2006	04/07/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OL RQ - REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>			
1,2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		04/24/2006	04/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PS2-EP - EP EXERCISE</b>		<b>3</b>			
1,2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		05/16/2006	05/20/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		05/16/2006	05/20/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/16/2006	05/20/2006	Baseline Inspections