

Duke Power Company
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DUKE POWER

June 24, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Duke Power Company
Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414

Request to use alternative to 1989 edition of ASME
Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI.
Serial No. 96-03

Pursuant to 10CFR 50.55a (a) (3) (i & ii), Duke Power
Company requests the use of an alternative to the 1989
edition of ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI
for Catawba Units 1 & 2.

Specifically, Duke Power requests approval to use the
provisions of IWA-5250 in the 1990 Addenda.

It is required by the 1989 ASME Code (no addenda),
Subsection XI, IWA-5250(a)(2) "if leakage occurs at a bolted
connection, the bolting shall be removed, VT-3 visually
examined for corrosion, and evaluated in accordance with
IWA-3100:"

Duke Power Company believes these requirements described
above create a hardship for utilities and compromises
radiation safety. Removal of all bolting from a mechanical
joint is not always required to assure the connection has
not degraded. In addition, some connections are more
difficult to seal after disassembly when compared to
retorquing an already assembled connection. Complete
disassembly of a connection in a radiation area would also
increase personnel exposure. ASME has recognized such
situations and changed this requirement to allow removal and
evaluation of one bolt closest to the leak in a bolted
connection identified as leaking.

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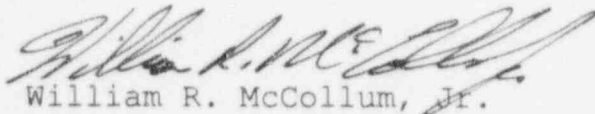
Request for Approval of Alternative Examinations:

Duke Power Company proposes to apply the requirements of the 1990 Addenda that allows for only the one bolt closest to the leak be removed and examined visually by a VT-3 inspector.

Catawba intends to use this alternative examination method during the current Unit 1 EOC9 outage. Approval of this alternate examination method is requested by August 30, 1996.

Should there be any questions concerning this change, please call D. Tower at (803) 831-3419.

Very truly yours,



William R. McCollum, Jr.
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Catawba Nuclear Station

xc:

S.D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator
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R.J. Freudenberger, Senior Resident Inspector
Catawba Nuclear Station

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