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DUKE POWER

April 24, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50 -413,414
McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50 -369,370
Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50 -269,270,287
Clarification of Reporting Requirements Under
10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(vi)

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Duke Power requests formal approval to use the guidance provided in NUREG-1022, Rev. 1, Second Draft, dated February 1994, Section 3.3.7, "News Release or Other Government Notifications" (50.72(b)(2)(vi)) regarding reportability issues for NRC awareness. In the draft guidance, the NRC has made it clear that the purpose of this reporting provision is to "...ensure the NRC is made aware of issues that will cause heightened public or government concern related to the radiological health and safety of the public or on-site personnel or protection of the environment." Additionally, in the draft, the NRC provides examples of the situations which do not require notification to the NRC.

In the course of day to day activities of the plant, occasionally, parameters fall outside established norms. These exceedances require notification to the state regardless of their potential environmental impact. Currently, Duke is required to make a 4-hour notification to the NRC following a notification to state agencies. This includes such minor environmental problems as the exceedance of fecal coliform limits which involve neither a "health or safety" concern, nor any news releases. Duke believes that the draft guidance in NUREG-1022, Rev. 1, represents the intent of the NRC to

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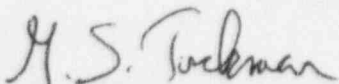
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eliminate unnecessary reporting. Therefore, a four-hour notification to the NRC following each state notification defeats the purpose of the regulation and dilutes the importance of the four-hour reporting requirement.

Accordingly, until a final version to NUREG-1022, Rev. 1 is published, it is requested that Duke be exempted from the 4 hour reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(vi) for those events which are deemed by the Duke Power Environmental Management program to affect neither the health nor the safety of the public.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Allison Jones-Young at (704) 382-3154.

Very truly yours,



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