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DUKE POWER

September 3, 1996

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2,
Docket Nos. 50-413 and -414
McGuire Nuclear Station , Units 1 and 2,
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 370
Seismic Analysis Methodology
(TACs M91832, M91833, and M91834)

By letters dated March 16 and June 30, 1995, Duke Power Company requested approval for use of alternative seismic methodologies. The three methodologies were CREST, Independent Support Motion (ISM), and coupled analysis of the reactor coolant loop piping. These more current methodologies were needed for reanalysis of the main steam lines and other piping systems in conjunction with steam generator replacement at Catawba Unit 1, McGuire Unit 1 and McGuire Unit 2.

By letter dated September 20, 1995, we requested that the ISM methodology be approved in the short term while the CREST review continued. The request to approve the coupled analysis of RCL piping was withdrawn at that time. On October 13, 1995, the NRC approved Duke's use of the ISM methodology.

The Catawba Unit 1 S/G replacement outage is nearly complete. The engineering work for the McGuire Units 1 and 2 S/G replacement outages is nearing completion. Therefore, Duke no longer has an immediate need for use of the CREST methodology. Rather than utilizing NRC Staff and Duke Power resources to continue the review, Duke's request for approval of the CREST methodology is hereby withdrawn.

We continue to believe that the CREST methodology represents a significant advance in seismic analysis and would like to see the review completed under the sponsorship of another organization or licensee. CREST was developed by the North



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Carolina State University, Center for Nuclear Power Plant Structures, Equipment & Piping which is supported by eleven US nuclear utilities and seven other members, including foreign utilities and nuclear services companies. In addition, a number of non-member US utilities are interested in the application of the CREST methodology. We will work with the Center and other utilities to obtain NRC acceptance of CREST and research products that can improve the safety and cost effectiveness of nuclear power plants.

Please contact R. O. Sharpe at (704) 382-0956 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

M. S. Tuckman

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