

June 4, 1997

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. R. McCollum
Vice President
Catawba Site
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745-9635

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-413/97-99 AND 50-414/97-99)

Dear Mr. McCollum:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) for the Catawba Nuclear Station. The facility was assessed for the period of October 8, 1995, through April 26, 1997. The results of the assessment are documented in the enclosed SALP report, which will be discussed with you at a public meeting at the Catawba site on June 23, 1997, at 1:00 p.m.

Plant performance was assessed in four functional areas: Plant Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, and Plant Support. Performance in the areas of Plant Operations, Engineering, and Plant Support improved to a superior level. Contributors to this achievement were improved program implementation by your staff, effective self-assessment and management involvement. The assessment of these three functional areas indicates that the Station staff was effective in addressing the challenges discussed in the previous SALP report.

The level of performance in the Maintenance area remained good. This area also benefited from improved self-assessment and management involvement. Equipment reliability, procedure inadequacies and problems in the welding program require your attention and detracted from obtaining a higher category rating in this area.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Luis A. Reyes

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414
License Nos. NPF-35 and NPF-52

Enclosure: SALP Report

cc w/encl:
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Owners Group
North Carolina Electric
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Distribution w/encl: (See page 4)

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 ATTN: Mr. John C. Heard, Jr., Chief
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