March 2, 2007

Rick A. Muench, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS  66839

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000482/2007001)

Dear Mr. Muench:

On February 8, 2007, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2006. 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 performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, the Wolf Creek Generating Station 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 performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

The staff identified that there were more than three Green inspection findings for the current 12-month assessment period with documented crosscutting aspects in the human performance area. There is a crosscutting theme associated with these findings involving work practices in that there were a number of instances in which station personnel failed to use human error prevention techniques. In evaluating your scope of efforts and progress in addressing the crosscutting theme, the NRC staff determined that you recognized the crosscutting theme and are taking actions to address it. In 2004 and 2005, your staff identified negative trends in human performance and implemented corrective actions to address this trend. Subsequent assessments indicated that these actions were less than fully effective. Your staff has since implemented additional corrective actions to address this theme. These actions include development of a Human Performance Program Initiative to be led by site management. Specific actions in this initiative include: promoting excellence by ensuring station personnel understand and demonstrate human performance fundamentals, ensuring coaching and
oversight are effective at achieving desired performance, ensuring root cause and apparent cause evaluations effectively identify organization and process contributors, and ensuring personnel take ownership of station performance by demonstrating sensitivity for error-likely situations and developing defensive strategies. On the basis of these additional actions, the NRC staff has concluded that a substantive crosscutting issue in human performance does not exist at this time.

The staff also identified that there were more than three Green inspection findings for the current 12-month assessment period with documented crosscutting aspects in the problem identification and resolution area. There is a crosscutting theme associated with these findings involving the failure to institutionalize internal and external operating experience into station processes, procedures, equipment, and training programs. In evaluating your scope of efforts and progress in addressing the crosscutting theme, the NRC staff determined that you took a range of corrective actions which have been implemented and are judged at this time to be effective. Three of the findings were identified during the problem identification and resolution inspection that occurred during Spring 2006. Following this inspection, your staff developed subject matter experts who were tasked with ensuring that operating experience was adequately evaluated and disseminated throughout the organization. Only one additional finding associated with this crosscutting theme has been identified since corrective action was implemented. On the basis of your efforts to address this issue, the NRC staff has concluded that a substantive crosscutting issue in problem identification and resolution does not exist at this time.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2008. In addition to the baseline inspection program, we plan to conduct Inspection Procedure 71002, "License Renewal Inspection," and Temporary Instruction 2515/150, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles." The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review.

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 this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817-860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Vincent G. Gaddy, Chief
Project Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

Enclosure:
Wolf Creek Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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P.O. Box 922  
New Strawn, KS  66839-0922
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.
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Electronic distribution by RIV:
Regional Administrator (BSM1)
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DRS Director (DDC)
DRS Deputy Director (RJC1)
Senior Resident Inspector (SDC)
SRI, Callaway (MSP)
Branch Chief, DRP/B (VGG)
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/B (FLB2)
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RITS Coordinator (MSH3)
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W. Maier, RSLO (WAM)
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Publicly Available | Non-Publicly Available | Sensitive | Non-Sensitive

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