August 31, 2007

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

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Muench:

On August 7, 2007, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Wolf Creek Generating Station for the first half of the calendar year 2007 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. 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 security information. A separate letter designated and marked as “Official Use Only—Security Information” will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Wolf Creek Generating Station 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 PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).

In our annual assessment letter dated March 2, 2007, we identified a cross-cutting theme involving work practices in which station personnel failed to use human error prevention techniques. We did not identify a substantive cross-cutting issue in human performance because of the actions that your staff was taking to address this area of performance. These actions included the development of a Human Performance Program Initiative to be led by site management. Specific actions in this initiative included: 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.

During this assessment period, we identified the same cross-cutting theme. However, the actions you have implemented are beginning to show progress given that only two of these findings occurred during the last six months of the assessment period. On the basis of these actions, including the results achieved to date, the NRC staff concluded that a substantive cross-cutting issue in human performance does not exist at this time.
The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to security, scheduled through December 31, 2008. In addition to the baseline inspection program, we plan to implement 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 nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle 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).

The NRC is currently evaluating the scope and frequency of all the baseline inspection procedures. If the results of the evaluation, or any other circumstances, cause us to change the 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 Gaddy
Chief
Reactor Projects Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

Enclosure:
Wolf Creek Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
Vice President Operations/Plant Manager
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J. Donohew, Project Manager (JND)
D. Pelton, OEDO RIV Coordinator (DLP1)
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**R.O.S.E.:** Radioactive Material Screening, Environmental Monitoring, Radiological Examinations, and Occupational Exposure.

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**Notes:**
- All dates are in YYYY-MM-DD format.
- The table lists the inspection dates and related activities for the R.O.S.E. program.
- The columns are labeled as follows: Date, Code, Type, and No. of Subject.