November 14, 2001

Mr. Otto L. Maynard
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Post Office Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES," RESPONSE FOR WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION (TAC NO. MB2676)

Dear Mr. Maynard:

On August 3, 2001, the NRC staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor (PWR) plants. You were requested to provide your response to Item 1 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response for Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) by letter dated August 29, 2001(ET 01-0025). In your response, you stated that WCGS is in the category of plants with low susceptibility to circumferential cracking of the VHP nozzles and has not previously experienced either leakage from or cracking in the nozzles.

The NRC staff finds, after review of your response to the bulletin, that you have provided the information requested by the Bulletin and that the information is acceptable. Based on this information, the staff concludes that there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained. As you stated in response to Item 5 of the Bulletin, you have committed to provide the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage at WCGS, which is Spring 2002:

a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this Bulletin.

This closes out the NRC staff's review of your response to Bulletin 2001-01 and closes out TAC No. MB2676. If you have any questions, contact me at 301-415-1307, or through the internet at jnd@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-482

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

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