

November 20, 1986

Docket No.: 50-482

Mr. Glenn L. Koester
Vice President - Nuclear
Kansas Gas and Electric Company
201 North Market Street
P. O. Box 208
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Dear Mr. Koester:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your request for an exemption from the requirements of footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 20 for the Wolf Creek Generating Station.

The Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Paul W. O'Connor, Project Manager
PWR Project Directorate #4
Division of PWR Licensing-A

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements (construction permit and operating license) for the Wolf Creek Generating Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC Staff reviewed the licensee's request and consulted with an NRC contractor at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated July 1, 1985, as supplemented November 8, 1985, and May 6, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the William Allen White Library, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, and at the Washburn University School of Law Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 19th day of November 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

B.J. Youngblood, Director
PWR Project Directorate #4
Division of PWR Licensing-A

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONKANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANYKANSAS CITY POWER & LIGHT COMPANYKANSAS ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.DOCKET NO. 50-482ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 20, to the Kansas Gas and Electric Company, Kansas City Power & Light Company, and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., (the licensee) for the Wolf Creek Generating Station located at the licensee's site in Coffey County, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The exemption would relax the requirement in Footnote d-2(c) of Appendix A to 10 CFR 20 which states, "No allowance is to be made for the use of sorbents against radioactive gases or vapor." The exemption would allow the use of a radioiodine protection factor of 50 for certain respiratory protection canisters used by workers at the licensee's Wolf Creek facility. The staff's technical evaluation of this request will be published in a report entitled "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Use of Radioiodine Protection Factor for Sorbent Canisters at Wolf Creek."

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated July 1, 1985, as supplemented by letters dated November 8, 1985 and May 6, 1986.

The Need for the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption is needed because the features described in the licensee's request are potential means to reduce occupational exposure to radiation for some tasks at the Wolf Creek facility.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action: The proposed exemption will most likely reduce the work effort and occupational exposure for some tasks at the Wolf Creek facility. As stated in the staff's Safety Evaluation Report:

The utilization of air purifying respirators in lieu of air-supplied or self-contained apparatuses, where possible, can result in person-rem reductions estimated overall at 30% for tasks requiring radioiodine protection, in a range of from 25% to 50% for several major tasks. The light weight, less cumbersome air purifying respirators (i.e., sorbent canisters) can provide increased comfort and mobility in most cases, and result in increased worker efficiency and decreased time on-the-job. The licensee has provided a task analysis which shows that the use of sorbent canisters at Wolf Creek can result in significant dose savings and should be an effective ALARA measure.

With regard to potential radiological impacts to the general public, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect the potential for or consequences of radiological accident and does not affect radiological plant effluents. The exemption has no effect on non-radiological impacts of facility operation. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action: Since we have concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are negligible, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources: This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statements (construction permit and operating license) for the Wolf Creek Generating Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC Staff reviewed the licensee's request and consulted with an NRC contractor at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

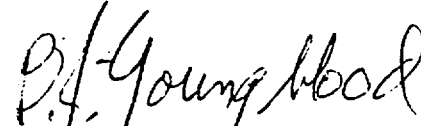
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated July 1, 1985, as supplemented November 8, 1985, and May 6, 1986, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the William Allen White Library, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas, and at the Washburn University School of Law Library, Topeka, Kansas.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 19th day of November 1986.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B.J. Youngblood", is written over the typed name.

B.J. Youngblood, Director
PWR Project Directorate #4
Division of PWR Licensing-A