

October 31, 1990

Mr. Bart D. Withers
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Post Office Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Dear Mr. Withers:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM
10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) (TAC No. 77657)

Your letter of September 18, 1990 (NO 90-0246) requested a one-time waiver/
request to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) in order to alter the Wolf Creek Nuclear
Operating Corporation Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program
cycle to be better aligned with the National Exam Schedule. This action will
extend the current training cycle to 26 months and change the two-year
training cycle starting date from October 1 to December 1 of even years.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact relating to your request. This Environmental
Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,
(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY)

Douglas V. Pickett, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. Bart D. Withers

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATIONDOCKET NO. 50-482ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 to the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) (the licensee), for the Wolf Creek Generating Station located in Coffey County, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would grant relief from 10 CFR 55.59(a), which requires that a requalification program for operator licensees and senior operator licensees be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration and that an annual requalification examination be administered. The licensee has requested an exemption which would extend the 24-month requalification program cycle from October 1990 to December 1990.

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases therefore are contained in a letter dated September 18, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is from 10 CFR 55.59(a), which requires that a requalification program for operator licensees and senior operator licensees be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. In addition, an annual requalification examination must be passed. The licensee requested an exemption to extend the 24-month requalification cycle from October 1990 to December 1990, for the purpose of aligning the Wolf Creek

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program with the new NRC national examination schedule. This one-time exemption would result in a permanent adjustment to the 24-month requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination schedule.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption would align the Wolf Creek requalification cycle with the NRC national examination schedule. This exemption will not increase the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect the quantity of radiological plant effluents, nor result in any significant increase in occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. Such action would not reduce the environmental impact of the Wolf Creek Generating Station operations and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station dated June 1982.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff has reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

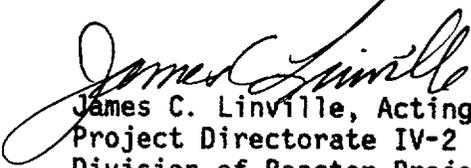
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

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

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated September 18, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., at the Emporia State University, William Allen White Library, 1200 Commercial Street, Emporia, Kansas 66801, and at the Washburn University School of Law Library, Topeka, Kansas 66621.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of October 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


James C. Linville, Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation