

November 29, 1988

Docket No. 50-482

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: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (TAC NO. 67571)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your February 26, 1988 request to revise Emergency Ventilation/Exhaust System Technical Specifications.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
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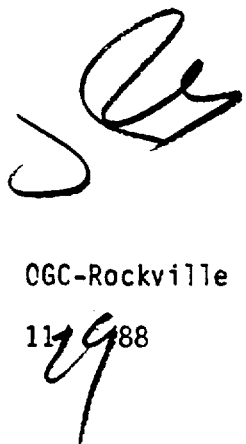
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 29, 1988

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
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See next page

Mr. Bart D. Withers
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation

Wolf Creek Generating Station
Unit No. 1

cc:

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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 amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 issued to the Kansas Gas and Electric Company, et al., (the licensees), for operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station located at the licensee's site in Coffey County, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would provide a more optimum pressure balance between the emergency ventilation systems of the Control Building and the Auxiliary Building. The proposed amendment would modify Technical Specifications (TS) relating to emergency ventilation system flow rates, deletes unnecessary and redundant surveillance requirements and clarifies the Bases accordingly. The proposed amendment would revise TS 3/4.7.6, Control Room Ventilation System, 3/4.7.7, Emergency Exhaust System (Plant Systems), 3/4.9.13, Emergency Exhaust Systems (Refueling Operation), TS Bases B 3/4.7.7, Emergency Exhaust System (Plant Systems) and B 3/4.9.13, Emergency Exhaust System (Refueling Operation).

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The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated February 26, 1988, and as supplemented by letter dated October 31, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the TS is required in order to provide a more optimum pressure balance between the emergency ventilation systems of the Control Building and the Auxiliary Building. Modifications to the ventilation system flow rates establishes a more desirable positive pressure envelope in the Control Building.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revisions to the Technical Specifications. The proposed revisions would: 1) ensure Control Room Habitability under accident conditions, including chlorine accident, loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), and Fuel Building irradiated fuel accident. The changes proposed increase the ability of the systems to ensure Control Room habitability during a LOCA or a Fuel Building fuel handling accident by providing a more reliable positive pressure envelope in the Control Building, thus ensuring that only air passing through high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) and charcoal filters is discharged into the Control Room. The increased air flow will not increase chlorine concentrations in the Control Room during a chlorine accident above acceptable level specified in Regulatory Guide 1.78. 2) ensure that radioactive materials leaking from emergency core cooling system (ECCS) pumps in the Auxiliary Building during a LOCA are not discharged into the atmosphere without being processed through HEPA and charcoal filters. The changes do not reduce the required negative pressure of greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch

Water Gage (W.G.) for the Auxiliary Building during a LOCA. 3) ensure that radioactive materials released from an irradiated fuel assembly damaged during a fuel handling accident in the Fuel Building will be filtered through HEPA and charcoal filters prior to discharge to the atmosphere. The change in flow rates does not reduce the ability of the Emergency Exhaust System to maintain a negative pressure of greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch W.G. in the Fuel Building.

The Commission's review has concluded that with regard to potential radiological impacts to the general public, the accident releases will be adequately controlled as before during the postulated accident conditions in the Auxiliary Building and Fueling Building since the negative pressure level limits and the iodine removal efficiency of the filters are not affected by the change in the emergency exhaust system flow rates. In addition, the control room habitability system operation with the revised ventilation and exhaust air flow rates still meet the requirements specified in General Design Criteria 19 and Standard Review Plan 6.4 for the protection of control room personnel under accident conditions. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has

no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on August 26, 1988 (53 FR 32804). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. 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 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 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 amendment dated February 26, 1988, as supplemented October 31, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, 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 Rockville, Maryland this 29th day of November, 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Jose A. Calvo

Jose A. Calvo, Director
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation