

December 6, 1990

Docket File 50-482

DISTRIBUTION

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

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Dear Mr. Withers:

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 55.59(a) -
REQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS - WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION
(TAC NO. 77657)

By letter dated September 18, 1990 (NO 90-0246), the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) requested an exemption from the requalification requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a) to allow the WCNOC Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program Cycle to be better aligned with the National Exam Schedule.

10 CFR 55.59(a) requires licensees to conduct a requalification program for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. Currently, the WCNOC Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program begins on October 1 of even years. This one-time exemption would permit the current requalification program to extend to 26 months so that operator examinations could be given in accordance with the National Exam Schedule promulgated in Generic Letter 89-03. This will also result in a permanent adjustment of the WCNOC requalification training program starting date to December 1 of even years.

The Commission has granted this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11. A copy of the exemption is enclosed and is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Eugene V. Imbro, Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. Bart D. Withers

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cc w/enclosure:

Jay Silberg, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
1800 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. Chris R. Rogers, P.E.
Manager, Electric Department
Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 311
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Mr. Robert Elliot, Chief Engineer
Utilities Division
Kansas Corporation Commission
4th Floor - State Office Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1571

Office of the Governor
State of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Attorney General
1st Floor - The Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Chairman, Coffey County Commission
Coffey County Courthouse
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Mr. Gerald Allen
Public Health Physicist
Bureau of Air Quality & Radiation Control
Division of Environment
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Forbes Field Building 321
Topeka, Kansas 66620

Mr. Gary Boyer, Plant Manager
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P. O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. Otto Maynard, Manager
Regulatory Services
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P. O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of,

WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION
(Wolf Creek Generating Station)

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Docket No. 50-482

EXEMPTION

I.

The Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) is the holder of Operating License No. NPF-42, which authorizes the operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The license provides, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facility is a pressurized water reactor at the licensee's site located in Coffey County, Kansas.

II.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1), "each licensee shall successfully complete a requalification program developed by the facility licensee that has been approved by the Commission. This program shall be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration."

III.

By letter dated September 18, 1990, the licensee requested an exemption from the requirement to extend the WCNOC Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program cycle to be better aligned with the National Exam Schedule. The exemption from the requirements of the regulation would therefore be for a period of about 2 months.

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Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and are otherwise in the public interest."

IV.

Currently, the WCNOG Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program begins on October 1 of even years. This one-time exemption would permit the current requalification program that began in October 1988 to be extended to 26 months so that operator examinations could be aligned with the National Exam Schedule promulgated in Generic Letter 89-03. An April and an October examination date was established for Wolf Creek. This exemption will also result in a permanent adjustment of the WCNOG requalification training program starting date to December 1 of even years.

V.

The staff has concluded that issuance of this exemption will not endanger life or property and will have no significant effect on the safety of the public or the plant.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact has been prepared and published in the Federal Register on November 7, 1990 (55 FR 46878). Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission has determined that the issuance of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, that an exemption as described in Section III is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the following exemption:

The Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation is exempt from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a)(1) for a period of October 1990 to December 1990 with respect to the 24-month requalification program.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request 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 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.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Bruce A. Boger, Director
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 6th day of December 1990.