

October 15, 1993

Docket No. 50-482

Mr. Neil S. Carns
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Post Office Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Dear Mr. Carns:

SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - INCREASE IN RATED THERMAL POWER
(TAC NO. M85311)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your application of January 5, 1993 and the supplemental information provided by letter dated October 1, 1993. The submittal proposed an increase in the allowable maximum core power for Wolf Creek Generating Station from 3411 Megawatts-thermal (Mwt) to 3565 Mwt.

This environmental assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

William D. Reckley, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. Neil S. Carns

- 2 -

October 15, 1993

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATIONWOLF CREEK GENERATING STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-482NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL 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 Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (the licensee) for operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station, Unit 1, located in Coffey County, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

This Environmental Assessment is written in connection with the proposed core uprate for the Wolf Creek Generating Station in response to the licensee's application dated January 5, 1993, as supplemented by letter dated October 1, 1993. The proposed action would increase the rated core power for Wolf Creek from the current level of 3411 Megawatts-thermal (Mwt) to 3565 Mwt, and upgrade the Nuclear Steam Supply System (NSSS) thermal power from 3425 Mwt to 3579 Mwt. This uprate would represent an increase of approximately 4.5 percent over the current rated core power and NSSS thermal power. As part of the proposed rerate of operating conditions, the licensee has included a reduction in reactor coolant hot leg temperature to address concerns related to the corrosion of steam generator tubes.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to increase the electrical output by approximately 28 Megawatts-electrical (MWe) and thus provide additional electrical power to the grids which service the commercial and residential areas of the owner utilities (Western Resources, Kansas City Power and Light, and the Kansas Electric Power Cooperative).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

A slight change in the environmental impact can be expected for an increase in plant power level, but the effects were found to be minimal and did not alter the findings stated in NUREG-0878, "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Wolf Creek Generating Station, Unit No. 1" (FES).

The proposed core uprating is projected to increase the rejected heat by approximately 4.5 percent. However, the expected thermal discharges from the circulating and service water systems remain bounded by the values evaluated in the FES. Thus, the 4.5 percent increase in rejected heat has been evaluated and determined to not significantly impact on the quality of the human environment.

The licensing basis analyses related to radiological source terms were originally performed assuming a core power of 3565 MWt which corresponds to the proposed rerate conditions. The NRC review of these calculations was documented in NUREG-0881, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Operation of Wolf Creek Generating Station, Unit No. 1." Additional assessments by the licensee related to the rerated conditions (power level and reactor coolant

temperature) and other changes related to plant operation (Amendment 61 to Facility Operating License NPF-42) determined there would be no significant increase in the potential radioactive releases resulting from plant operation or design basis reactor accidents. In addition, no significant increases in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure would result from the proposed changes in operating conditions. Also, the proposed increase in the NSSS power involves no significant change in the amount of any non-radiological effluents that may be released offsite compared to the those evaluated and approved in the FES.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed changes, any alternatives with equal or greater impacts need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the proposed action would be to deny the requested amendment. Denial would not significantly reduce the environmental impact of plant operation and would restrict operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station, Unit 1, to the currently licensed power level, thereby reducing operational flexibility.

Alternate Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the FES for Wolf Creek Generating Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and consulted with the Kansas State official. The State official had no comments regarding the NRC's proposed action.

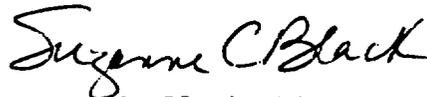
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment. Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For additional details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated January 5, 1993, and supplemental letter dated October 1, 1993. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20555 and at the Local Public Document Rooms, Emporia State University, William Allen White Library, 1200 Commercial Street, Emporia, Kansas 66801 and the Washburn University School of Law Library, Topeka, Kansas 66621.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of October 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Suzanne C. Black, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation