

October 8, 1991

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: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. 80234)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated March 28, 1991, which requested a transfer, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, of the Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) possession-only interest in Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 to a successor company resulting from the merger of KG&E with Kansas Power and Light Company (KPL) and your April 23, 1991, application which requested an amendment to the operating license, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, to reflect the transfer and change of KG&E to a wholly-owned subsidiary of KPL.

This assessment has been 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:
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Mr. Bart D. Withers

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cc w/enclosure:

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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 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 No. 1, located in Coffey County, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed amendment would revise the Wolf Creek operating license by the addition of a footnote that acknowledges the transfer of the Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) possession-only interest in the operating license to a successor company which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kansas Power and Light Company (KPL).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated March 28, 1991, which requested a transfer, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, of the KG&E possession-only interest in the operating license to a successor company resulting from the merger of KG&E with KPL, and an April 23, 1991, application which requested an amendment to the operating license, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, to reflect the transfer and change of KG&E to a wholly-owned subsidiary of KPL.

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The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is required to reflect the pending merger of KG&E and KPL following the review and approval by various State and Federal agencies, including the NRC. The transfer of the KG&E possession-only interest in Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 to the successor company, also to be named Kansas Gas and Electric Company, and the amendment of the operating license to acknowledge the transfer will have minimal impact upon the operation of the facility by Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC), the present holder of the operating license. The transfer and amendment will not affect the facility's Technical Specifications, license conditions (including the anti-trust conditions applicable to KG&E), or the organization and practices of WCNOC.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed license transfer and associated license amendment and concludes that there will be no changes to the Wolf Creek Generating Station or the environment as a result of these actions. The transfer of the KG&E possession-only interest in the license and the associated license amendment will not affect the numbers, qualifications, or organizational affiliation of the personnel who operate the facility as WCNOC will remain the holder of the operating license and be responsible for the operation of Wolf Creek Generating Station. The successor company to KG&E has pledged to honor all commitments related to WCNOC and the operation and maintenance of Wolf Creek after the merger with KPL. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no radiological or non-radiological environmental impact.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for Hearing for Transfer of Ownership Interest and Opportunity for Public Comment on Antitrust Issues in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on May 13, 1991 (56 FR 22026). 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 the loss of the economic benefits gained by the proposed KG&E merger with KPL.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Wolf Creek Generating Station, dated June 1982 (NUREG-0878).

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons regarding this environmental assessment.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license transfer and associated license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude 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 applications for the license transfer dated March 28, 1991, and the license amendment dated April 23, 1991, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Emporia State University, William Allen White Library, 1200 Commercial Street, Emporia, Kansas 66801 and Washburn University School of Law Library, Topeka, Kansas 66621.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 8th day of October 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne C Black".

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