September 29, 1997

Mr. Otto L. Maynard
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Post Office Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - AMENDMENT NO. 111 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-42 (TAC NO. M99306)

Dear Mr. Maynard:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 111 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 for the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated July 29, 1997.

The amendment changes the wording of Action Statement 5a to Technical Specification Table 3.3-1, "Reactor Trip System Instrumentation." This action statement prescribes a set of actions to be accomplished when a source range neutron detector is inoperable with the plant shutdown. The proposed wording change will clarify the times and order in which these actions are to be performed.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

James C. Stone, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-482

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 111to NPF-42
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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cc w/encls:
Jay Silberg, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

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

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

Chief Engineer
Utilities Division
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027

Office of the Governor
State of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Attorney General
Judicial Center
301 S.W. 10th
2nd Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612

County Clerk
Coffey County Courthouse
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Vick L. Cooper, Chief
Radiation Control Program
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air and Radiation
Forbes Field Building 283
Topeka, Kansas 66620

Chief Operating Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P. O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Supervisor Licensing
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspectors Office
8201 NRC Road
Steedman, Missouri 65077-1032

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION

WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-482

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 111
License No. NPF-42

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment to the Wolf Creek Generating Station (the facility) Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 filed by the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (the Corporation), dated July 29, 1997, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   2. Technical Specifications

      The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 111, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, both of which are attached hereto, are hereby incorporated in the license. The Corporation shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance to be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

James C. Stone

James C. Stone, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: September 29, 1997

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 111

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-42

DOCKET NO. 50-482

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached page. The revised page is identified by Amendment number and contains marginal lines indicating the areas of change. The corresponding overleaf page is also provided to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE	INSERT
3/4 3-6	3/4 3-6

TABLE 3.3-1 (Continued)

TABLE NOTATIONS

*Only if the Reactor Trip System breakers happen to be in the closed position and the Control Rod Drive System is capable of rod withdrawal.
#The provisions of Specification 3.0.4 are not applicable.
##Below the P-6 (Intermediate Range Neutron Flux Interlock) Setpoint.
###Below the P-10 (Low Setpoint Power Range Neutron Flux Interlock) Setpoint.
(1) The applicable MODES for these channels noted in Table 3.3-3 are more restrictive and therefore applicable.

ACTION STATEMENTS

ACTION 1 - With the number of OPERABLE CHANNELS one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status within 48 hours or be in HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours.

ACTION 2 - With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Total Number of Channels, STARTUP and/or POWER OPERATION may proceed provided the following conditions are satisfied:

a. The inoperable channel is placed in the tripped condition within 6 hours;

b. The Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement is met; however, the inoperable channel may be bypassed for up to 4 hours for surveillance testing of other channels per Specification 4.3.1.1; and

c. Either, THERMAL POWER is restricted to less than or equal to 75% of RATED THERMAL POWER and the Power Range Neutron Flux Trip Setpoint is reduced to less than or equal to 85% of RATED THERMAL POWER within 4 hours; or, the QUADRANT POWER TILT RATIO is monitored at least once per 12 hours per Specification 4.2.4.2.

ACTION 3 - With the number of channels OPERABLE one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement and with the THERMAL POWER level:

a. Below the P-6 (Intermediate Range Neutron Flux Interlock) Setpoint, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status prior to increasing THERMAL POWER above the P-6 Setpoint; or

b. Above the P-6 (Intermediate Range Neutron Flux Interlock) Setpoint but below 10% of RATED THERMAL POWER, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status prior to increasing THERMAL POWER above 10% of RATED THERMAL POWER.

ACTION 4 - With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement suspend all operations involving positive reactivity changes.

TABLE 3.3-1 (Continued)

ACTION STATEMENTS (Continued)

ACTION 5 -

a. With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status within 48 hours. If the inoperable channel is not restored to OPERABLE within 48 hours, then, within the 49th hour open the Reactor Trip Breakers and suspend all operations involving positive reactivity changes.

b. With no channels OPERABLE, open the Reactor Trip Breakers, suspend all operations involving positive reactivity changes and verify compliance with the SHUTDOWN MARGIN requirements of Specification 3.1.1.1 within 1 hour and every 12 hours thereafter.

ACTION 6 - With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Total Number of Channels, STARTUP and/or POWER OPERATION may proceed provided the following conditions are satisfied:

a. The inoperable channel is placed in the tripped condition within 6 hours; and

b. The Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement is met; however, the inoperable channel may be bypassed for up to 4 hours for surveillance testing of other channels per Specification 4.3.1.1.

ACTION 7 - With the number of OPERABLE Channels one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status within 6 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours; however, one channel may be bypassed for up to 4 hours for surveillance testing per Specification 4.3.1.1, provided the other channel is OPERABLE.

ACTION 8 - With less than the Minimum Number of Channels OPERABLE, within 1 hour determine by observation of the associated permissive annunciator window(s) that the interlock is in its required state for the existing plant condition, or apply Specification 3.0.3.

ACTION 9 - With the number of OPERABLE Reactor Trip Breakers one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, be in at least HOT STANDBY within 6 hours; however, one breaker may be bypassed for up to 2 hours for surveillance testing per Specification 4.3.1.1., provided the other breaker is OPERABLE.

ACTION 10 - With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status within 48 hours or open the Reactor trip breakers within the next hour.

ACTION 11 - With the number of OPERABLE channels less than the Total Number of Channels, operation may continue provided the inoperable channels are placed in the tripped condition within 6 hours.

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 111 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-42

WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION

WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-482

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 29, 1997, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) (the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) for the Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS). The proposed changes would revise the wording of Action Statement 5a to Technical Specification Table 3.3-1, "Reactor Trip System Instrumentation." This action statement prescribes a set of actions to be accomplished when a source range neutron detector (Functional Unit 6.b on Table 3.3-1) is inoperable with the plant shutdown. The proposed wording change will clarify the times and order in which these actions are to be performed.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The proposed revision is a corrective action for NRC Notice of Violation EA 96-470, Violation I.C, issued April 3, 1997. The proposed change would revise Technical Specification Table 3.3-1, Action Statement 5a to state:

> With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, restore the inoperable channel to OPERABLE status within 48 hours. If the inoperable channel is not restored to OPERABLE within 48 hours, then within the 49th hour, open the Reactor Trip Breakers and suspend all operations involving positive reactivity changes.

In addition, a typographical error is corrected in Action Statement 7. The last word of that action statement, "operable," should be in all caps (i.e., "OPERABLE").

3.0 EVALUATION

Prior to the issuance of Amendment No. 96, Action Statement 5a required three actions to be completed within one hour following the 48-hour period when a source range neutron detector is inoperable with the plant shutdown. These actions involved opening the reactor trip breakers (RTBs), suspending all operations involving positive reactivity changes, and verifying valves BG-V178 and BG-V601 are closed and secured in position.

The action statement as worded in Amendment No. 96 created ambiguity as to the proper time frames in which the required actions are to be performed, as explained in the Bases for Section 3.3 of NUREG-1431, Revision 1. Although the intent of Amendment No. 96 was only to delete the action involving the boron dilution valves, the relationship of the remaining actions to the 48-hour period was not clear after grammatical editing.

The Westinghouse Standard Technical Specifications (NUREG 1431, Revision 1, Section 3.3) supports this position. Condition K, associated with Table 3.3.1-1 Function 5, requires the licensee to restore the channel to operable status within 48 hours or open the RTB within 49 hours. The Bases explains that, "One additional hour is allowed to open the RTBs. Once the RTBs are open, the core is in a more stable condition and the unit enters Condition L." Condition L only requires one source range instrument to be operable with the scram breakers open. Upon the loss of that source range, the licensee is required to immediately suspend operations involving positive reactivity additions, close unborated source isolation valves, and begin performing certain surveillances all within one hour. The actions required by Condition L are the same as Table 3.3-1 Action Statement 5b of the current Wolf Creek technical specifications.

Based on the above, the staff has concluded that the revised Action Statement 5a to Technical Specification Table 3.3-1 will clarify the time requirements for actions to be taken and is acceptable and consistent with the Standard Technical Specifications, NUREG-1433, Revision 1.

The correction to Action Statement 7, changing the word "operable" to all caps, is necessary to meet the format of defined terms in the technical specifications. The staff finds this change acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Kansas State Official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (62 FR 45467). Accordingly, the amendment

meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Carolyn L. Lauron
James C. Stone

Date: September 29, 1997