

March 17, 1999

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

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING  
STATION (TAC NO. MA4600)

Dear Mr. Maynard:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated January 15, 1999. The proposed amendment would revise TS 4.7.3b, "Plant Systems - Component Cooling Water System - Surveillance Requirements," by deleting the requirement to perform the specified surveillances during shutdown.

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

Sincerely,  
Original Signed By

Kristine M. Thomas, Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-482

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. Otto L. Maynard

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March 17, 1999

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-482

WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

ENVIRONMENTAL 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 located in Coffey County, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The amendment would revise Technical Specification (TS) 4.7.3b, "Plant Systems - Component Cooling Water System - Surveillance Requirements," by deleting the requirement to perform the specified surveillances during shutdown. A change to the applicable Bases would also be included.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated May 15, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated June 30, August 5, August 28, September 24, October 16, October 23, November 24, December 2, December 17, and December 21, 1998, and January 15, 1999.

Need for the Proposed Action:

By letter dated May 15, 1997, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (the licensee) proposed a conversion of the current TSs for Wolf Creek to the Improved Technical

Specifications (ITs). When the TS-required 18-month testing (during shutdown) of the component cooling water system (CCWS) was last conducted, a portion of the required testing was not completed for one pump in each train of the CCWS. The proposed action, an amendment to modify the TSs to allow testing during power operations, would avert a plant shutdown to complete this testing.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

With regard to potential radiological impacts to the general public, the amendment under consideration involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect the potential for radiological accidents and does not affect radiological plant effluents. No safety limits will be changed or setpoints altered as a result of the TS revision. The proposed action will 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 occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of Wolf Creek Generating Station, Unit No. 1" dated June 1982.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 8, 1999, the staff consulted with the Kansas State official, Mr. Vick Cooper, of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's application for amendment dated May 15, 1997, as supplemented by letters dated June 30, August 5, August 28, September 24, October 16, October 23, November 24, December 2, December 17, and December 21, 1998, and January 15, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington,

DC, and at the local public document rooms located at 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 17th day of March 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Kristine M. Thomas*

Kristine M. Thomas, Project Management  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation