



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

Docket file

50-482

See Amend

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

March 31, 1999

SUBJECT: CONVERSION TO IMPROVED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR WOLF
CREEK GENERATING STATION - AMENDMENT NO. 123 TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-42 (TAC NO. M98738)

Dear Mr. Maynard:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 123 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 for the Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS). The amendment converts the current Technical Specifications (CTS) for WCGS to the improved Technical Specifications (ITS). The ITS are based on the CTS, on NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications [STS], Westinghouse Plants," Revision 1, dated April 1995, and on guidance provided in the Commission's Final Policy Statement, "NRC Final Policy Statement on Technical Specification Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors," published on July 22, 1993 (58 FR 39132), and in 10 CFR 50.36, "Technical Specifications," as amended July 19, 1995 (60 FR 36953). The overall objective of the proposed amendment was to rewrite, reformat, and streamline the CTS to improve safety and the understanding of the Bases underlying the Technical Specifications.

The enclosed amendment is based on the staff's review of your application dated May 15, 1997 (ET 97-0050), as supplemented by (1) letters in 1998 dated June 30 (ET 98-0049), August 5 (WO 98-0078), August 28 (ET 98-0071), September 24 (ET 98-0078), October 16 (ET 98-0085), October 23 (ET 98-0087), November 24 (WO 98-0105), December 2 (ET 98-0098), December 17 (ET 98-0102), and December 21 (ET 98-0107); and (2) letters in 1999 dated February 4 (ET 99-0004), March 5 (ET 99-0009, ET 99-0010, and ET 99-0011), March 25 (ET 99-0015), and March 26 (ET 99-0029). The supplemental letters were in response to the staff's requests for additional information (RAIs) in letters dated May 22, June 17, July 7, July 14, July 15, July 17, July 22, August 14, 1998, September 3, and October 7, 1998, and in the meeting summaries that were issued on August 28, October 16, and November 6, 1998.

The draft Safety Evaluation (SE) for the ITS conversion was sent to you by our letter dated February 2, 1999, for your review to verify the accuracy of the draft SE. You responded with comments on the draft SE in the letter dated March 5, 1999 (ET 99-0011). You submitted the ITS and ITS Bases for WCGS and certified to their correctness in that you provided the affirmation in your letter of March 26, 1999, that the statements made in that letter, and its attachments including the ITS, are true and correct. The comments you provided were reviewed and incorporated in the enclosed final SE for the amendment as appropriate. The draft SE was also revised based on the staff's review of the draft SE after it was issued.

Included with the amendment are two license conditions for Appendix D, "Additional Conditions," to the license for WCGS. You submitted the following license conditions in your letter of March 5, 1999 (ET 99-0011): (1) the relocation of CTS requirements into licensee-

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controlled documents during the implementation of the ITS and (2) the schedule for the first performance of new and revised surveillance requirements (SRs) for the ITS. These license conditions are part of the implementation of the ITS and constitute enforceable commitments that the staff is relying upon in approving these amendments. Any changes to these license conditions, including the implementation date for the ITS conversion, must be submitted as a 10 CFR 50.90 amendment to the license and approved by the staff.

The ITS will become the governing Technical Specifications for WCGS upon the date of implementation of the ITS in its entirety, but no later than December 31, 1999, as stated in the two license conditions. Until the implementation of the ITS is completed, the CTS shall remain in effect and the unit will be operated in accordance with the requirements of the CTS. If there is an amendment to the Technical Specifications before the implementation of the ITS is completed, the amendment will be to both the CTS and the ITS. You are requested to submit a letter stating that the ITS have been implemented within 14 days of the date of implementation.

You developed your ITS conversion application and its supplements in concert with three other utilities, as explained in Section 3.0 of the enclosed Safety Evaluation. This was done to reduce both NRC resources needed to evaluate the applications from you and the other utilities and your costs. Your company's effort in the development of the submittals was very good and the support received from Mr. Steve Wideman and others of your staff throughout the staff's review was outstanding.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation and Notice of Issuance are enclosed. Contact me at 301-415-1307 (or jnd@nrc.gov on the internet) if you have any questions about the amendment.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Jack N. Donohew, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-482

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 123 to NPF-42
2. Safety Evaluation
3. Notice of Issuance

cc w/encls: See next page

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3/30/99

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NAME	JDonohew	EPeyton *	KThomas *	MGray *	Emarco	SRichards
DATE	3/30/99	03/ 17 /99	03/ 17 /99	03/ 18 /99	3/26/99	3/31/ 99
COPY	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

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OFC	BC:SRXB	TSB	TSB	TSB	TSB
NAME	JWermiel *	TTjader *	CSchulten *	NGilles *	ETomlinson *
DATE	03/ 22 /99	03/ 25 /99	03/ 23 /99	03/ 25 /99	03/ 22 /99
BSI:	CTS 3/4.4 9-17-LS-24 4-09-LS-36	CTS 6.0 1-09-A 1-15-A 2-18-A 2-22-A 3-11-A 3-18-LS-5	CTS 3/4.3 1-22-M 1-07-LS-3	CTS 3/4.7 10-20-LS-39	CTS 3/4.8 1-70-M 2-25-LS-23
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BSI:	CTS 3/4.8 2-27-M	CTS 3/4.9 14-09-M		
COPY	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

BSIs concurred on in the February 2, 1999, draft S: CNs 1-05-M (CTS 3/4.4), 1-15-M (CTS 3/4.4), and 2-20-A (CTS 3/4.8). The QA plan relocations were also concurred on in the February 2, 1999, draft SE.

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Mr. Otto L. Maynard

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March 31, 1999

cc w/encl:

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