

April 2, 2003

Mr. Rick A. Muench
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - RELIEF REQUEST NO. I2R-26
RELATED TO LIMITED EXAMINATION ON AUSTENITIC STAINLESS STEEL
PIPING WELDS WITH SINGLE SIDE ACCESS (TAC NO. MB4080)

Dear Mr. Muench:

By letter dated February 12, 2002 (ET 02-0003), you requested relief (Relief Request [RR] I2R-26) for the use of an alternative to the requirements in Section XI, on inservice inspection (ISI), of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (i.e., the ASME Code) at Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS). The request was to perform a limited examination of austenitic stainless piping welds with single side access.

In your letter of February 26, 2003 (WO 03-0010), you withdrew RR I2R-26. In the withdrawal letter you stated that Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation is working with other Strategic Teaming and Resource Sharing (STARS) licensees to implement a risk-informed ISI methodology to evaluate welds located in the break exclusion regions and that it is expected that use of this methodology will significantly reduce the number of single side access welds for which relief from the ASME Code is needed. You stated that if relief, as described in your February 12, 2002, letter, is required, such relief would not be needed until the end of the second 10-year interval and WCGS is just starting the third period of that interval.

Based on your withdrawal letter, the staff has discontinued its review of RR I2R-26; however, there may be some additional charges for the staff's contractor to document its work on the relief request. This letter closes out TAC No. MB4080.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-482

cc: See next page

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Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
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