December 24, 1997

EA 97-469

Garry L. Randolph, Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Union Electric Company P.O. Box 620 Fulton, Missouri 65251

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-483/97-11 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Randolph:

7123101

ADDO

PDR

An NRC inspection was conducted August 18-22, 1997, at your Callaway Plant reactor facility. Following the inspection, an exit meeting was held to provide the inspection findings to Mr. R. Affolter and other members of your staff. Subsequently, in-office inspection was conducted until December 19, 1997. Supplemental telephonic exits were also held on October 24 and December 19, 1997. The inspection evaluated your program and its implementation to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants [the Maintenance Rule]." The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

The inspection results revealed that you had developed and implemented a program that generally met the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65; however, the team identified a significant program weakness in the performance monitoring of structures, systems, and components (SSCs).

During the inspection, three violations of NRC requirements were identified. The first violation involved the failure to provide an adequate technical basis for the reliability performance criteria relative to the containment integrity function (containment isolation valves), and a failure to evaluate the consequences of operating non safety-related equipment in a run-to failure mode. The second violation identified inadequate demonstration that the performance of preventive maintenance was effective to assure the reliability of safety-significant SSCs. The third violation identified inadequate demonstration that preventive maintenance was effective to assure availability of SSCs.

In addition to these violations, a number of weaknesses were also identified relative to the implementation of Maintenance Rule. Collectively, these violations and weaknesses are indicative of ineffective risk significance determinations for some SSCs, and ineffective monitoring of a number of SSCs. Because of these problems, we desire to meet with you in the Region IV office in order to discuss your plans to improve the program. We will contact you regarding a mutually agreeable date for this management meeting following our review of your response to this letter.

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The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding these violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Howell III, Director Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-483 License No.: NPF-30

Enclosures: Notice of Violation NRC Inspection Report 50-483/97-11

cc w/enclosures: Professional Nuclear Consulting, Inc. 19041 Raines Drive Derwood, Maryland 20855

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Manager - Electric Department Missouri Public Service Commission 301 W. High P.O. Box 360 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Ronald A. Kucera, Deputy Director Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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

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Lee Fritz, Presiding Commissioner Callaway County Court House 10 East Fifth Street Fulton, Missouri 65151

Alan C. Passwater, Manager Licensing and Fuels Union Electric Company P.O. Box 66149 St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149

J. V. Laux, Manager Quality Assurance Union Electric Company P.O. Box 620 Fulton, Missouri 65251

E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF) E-Mail report to T. Hiltz (TGH) E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS) E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK) E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC) E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator DRP Director Branch Chief (DRP/B) Project Engineer (DRP/B) Branch Chief (DRP/TSS) G. F. Sanborn, EO M. Satorius W. L. Brown, RC J. Lieberman, OE, MS: 7-H5 OE:EA File, MS: 7-H5 Resident Inspector DRS-PSB MIS System RIV File

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