

March 10, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Jack N. Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2 **/RA/**
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: RESPONSE FROM LICENSEE – REQUEST TO REVIEW
INFORMATION ON WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION
THAT MAY BE INCLUDED IN NRC INFORMATION NOTICE

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (the licensee) conducted a refueling outage at Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) which began on March 22, 2002. On May 10, 2002, coming out of the outage, there were indications of an unusual noise followed by an alarm in the plant's loose parts monitoring system for Steam Generator D. The plant was shut down on May 13, 2002, and the steam generator was entered to find the loose parts.

The NRC staff issued a previous memorandum dated August 27, 2002 (ADAMS Accession No. ML022340708) in which the information on the loose parts in three e-mails dated May 17 and 20, and June 20, 2002, from the licensee was discussed. The first e-mail provided (1) a copy of a special report issued by the licensee to the WCGS employees describing the loose parts found in the steam generator and (2) pictures of the two parts found in the steam generator. The special report and the pictures can be found in ADAMS Accession No. ML022270414.

This memorandum addresses a request from the NRC staff (Attachment 1) for the licensee to review a "Description of Circumstances" about the loose parts found in the steam generator at Wolf Creek and provide any comments it wanted on this description. Attachment 2 is the e-mail that provides the licensee's response. The description may appear in a future NRC information notice.

This information is not part of review by the NRC staff of a licensing action submitted by the licensee.

Docket No. 50-482

Attachments: 1. E-mail dated February 19, 2004
2. E-mail dated February 25, 2004

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DATE	3/4/04	3/4/04	3-4-04

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E-MAIL DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2004

From: Jack Donohew
To: Steve Wideman
Date: 2/19/04 4:23PM
Subject: An upcoming Information Notice

The description below about Wolf Creek may appear in a future information notice:

On May 10, 2002, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation detected indications of an unusual noise coming from steam generator D followed by an alarm in the plant's loose parts monitoring system (NRC Memorandum, Subject: Response to Request for Information on Loose Parts Found In the Steam Generator at Wolf Creek Generating Station, August 27, 2002, ADAMS Accession No. ML022340708). The plant was shut down on May 13, 2002, in order to identify the source of the noise. During its inspections, the licensee retrieved two loose parts, a guide tube support pin nut, and a locking device from the primary side of steam generator D. There were no indications within the steam generator of serious damage to the tubes, tubesheet, welds, or divider plate. The loose parts did not result in any primary-to-secondary tube leakage.

We want to know if your management have a problem with how we described the situation at the plant? I don't know how fast we would like an answer, but I will check on this and get back to you.

<JND>

E-MAIL DATED FEBRUARY 25, 2004

From: Wideman Steven G <stwidem@WCNOC.com>
To: "Jack Donohew (E-mail)" <JND@nrc.gov>
Date: 2/25/04 3:02PM
Subject: FW: An upcoming Information Notice

Jack - some suggested revisions - 1) the second sentence in the first paragraph was revised and 2) an additional paragraph was provided to describe some of the activities that occurred in the refueling outage subsequent to the plant shutdown as a result of the loose parts. Let me know if you have any questions. These suggested revisions were discussed with the Plant Manager.

On May 10, 2002, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation detected indications of an unusual noise coming from steam generator D followed by an alarm in the plant's loose parts monitoring system (NRC Memorandum, Subject: Response to Request for Information on Loose Parts Found In the Steam Generator at Wolf Creek Generating Station, August 27, 2002, ADAMS Accession No. ML022340708). After a detailed evaluation of available information, plant management directed the shutdown of the plant on May 13, 2002, in order to identify the source of the noise. During its inspections, the licensee retrieved two loose parts, a guide tube support pin nut, and a locking device from the primary side of steam generator D. There were no indications within the steam generator of serious damage to the tubes, tubesheet, welds, or divider plate. The loose parts did not result in any primary-to-secondary tube leakage.

In the subsequent refueling outage (fall 2003), detailed inspections of steam generator D resulted in repairs to the tube sheet and a mechanical plug. An additional loose part from the split pin was identified to be lodged in one of the steam generator tubes which resulted in the plugging of that tube. Additionally, all guide tube split pins were replaced with stainless steel split pins.

Steve Wideman
WCNOC Licensing
620-364-4037

-----Original Message-----

From: Jack Donohew [mailto:JND@nrc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2004 3:23 PM
To: stwidem@wcnoc.com
Subject: An upcoming Information Notice

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notice:

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<JND>

CC: Jacobs Donna <dojacob@WCNOC.com>, Moles Kevin J <kemoles@WCNOC.com>, Pendergrass Gary J <gapende@WCNOC.com>, Wagner Patrick G <pawagne@WCNOC.com>