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ET 06-0014

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Docket 50-482: Notice of Intent to Upgrade to Digital Main Steam
and Feedwater Isolation Valve Controls

Gentlemen:

This letter is to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) is planning to replace the Main Steam and Feedwater Isolation valves at Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) during the spring, 2008 refueling outage. As part of this project WCNOC is also replacing the valve actuators, and control system. The following paragraphs describe the three major components of the project.

Main Steam and Feedwater Isolation Valve Body Replacement

The existing Main Steam Isolation Valve (MSIV) and Feed Water Isolation Valve (FWIV) valve bodies will be replaced with new valve bodies from CCI. Operating experience (OE) gained from another plant's replacement of the feedwater isolation valve actuators provided strong evidence supporting replacement of the valve bodies during the actuator replacement.

Valve Actuators

The existing hydraulically operated valve actuators are to be replaced with new system medium actuators from CCI. Replacement is scheduled for Refueling 16 Outage scheduled for spring 2008. The new actuators will provide many benefits, including, increased reliability, reduced complexity, and significantly less required testing.

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Control System

The existing Consolidated Controls Main Steam Feedwater Isolation System (MSFIS) control system is being replaced with a new Advanced Logic System (ALS). Installation is scheduled for Refuel 16, Spring 2008. The existing MSFIS control system does not support the operation of the new valve actuators. Therefore, a modified or new controls system is required to operate the new valve actuators. In addition to the lack of capability, the existing MSFIS control system is based on obsolete technology.

The ALS provides several advantages over the existing system; 1) Non-obsolete, based on a technology to mitigate future obsolescence, 2) Increased reliability, single failure tolerant (removes all single failures in the control system), 3) Modular design to allow additional safety-related control system to be replaced with the ALS, which provides benefits in the form of common spares and reduced training, and 4) Reduced required testing due to automated and interactive automated testing built into the ALS.

This project will require a License Amendment for changes to the station technical specifications. As a part of the project, the control system changes represent a new application of existing technology that will require NRC review. Therefore, WCNOG is informing the NRC of our intent to perform this activity to begin dialogue to allow for planning of the resources needed to ensure that the necessary information is provided for NRC review in time to support the project.

This letter contains no commitments. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (620) 364-4084, or Mr. Kevin Moles at (620) 364-4126.

Very truly yours,



Terry J. Garrett

TJG/rlt

cc: J. N. Donohew (NRC)
W. B. Jones (NRC)
B. S. Mallett (NRC)
Senior Resident Inspector (NRC)