

November 7, 2006

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

SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REGARDING RESPONSES TO GENERIC LETTER 2003-01,
"CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY" (TAC NO. MB9873)

Dear Mr. Muench:

Generic Letter (GL) 2003-01, "Control Room Habitability," was issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on June 12, 2003, and requested confirmation that the control room meets the applicable habitability regulatory requirements and that it is designed, constructed, configured, operated, and maintained in accordance with the facility's design and licensing bases. The GL further states that emphasis should be placed on confirming that the most limiting unfiltered leakage into the control room envelope (and the filtered leakage if applicable) is no more than the value assumed in the plant design-basis radiological analyses and hazardous chemical assessments for the control room, and requested a description of how and when the analyses, tests, and measurements were performed for this confirmation. You have responded for the Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) by the following three letters: August 8, 2003 (WO 03-0048); November 16, 2004 (WO 04-0051); and February 21, 2005 (WO 05-0003) (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Nos. ML032260631, ML043280496, and ML050600398, respectively).

In your letters dated November 16, 2004, and February 21, 2005, the results of the unfiltered leakage test were reported using the Atmospheric Tracer Depletion (ATD) test method developed by Brookhaven National Laboratory. In the responses, it was stated that the alternative method of unfiltered leakage testing was needed for WCGS because of the plant-specific control room/control building (CR/CB) design, which is different from other nuclear power plants. It was stated that the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) E741 test method was not able to provide valid results for the plant CR/CB design and, therefore, the ATD method was used. A description/applicability of the ATD test method and a comparison between the ATD and ASTM E741 methods was provided in an enclosure to the November 16, 2004, letter. The use of ATD method and the reasons for its use in place of the ASTM E741 method have also been discussed with the NRC staff in two conference calls.

In NRC Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.197, "Demonstrating Control Room Envelope Integrity at Nuclear Power Reactors," Regulatory Position 1.1 states that an integrated test performed using the ASTM E741 test method is acceptable to the staff. Therefore, to evaluate the acceptability of the results from the alternative test method used at WCGS, the NRC staff requests that you submit the information, listed in the 12 bullets in RG 1.197, Regulatory Position 1.3, "Alternative Test Methods," on the ATD test method. The information in the

R. Muench

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enclosure to the November 16, 2004, letter has been reviewed, but it does not provide all the information listed in RG 1.197, Position 1.3. Where the enclosure provides the requested information, you may reference that enclosure in your response. Because your position is that the ASTM E741 test method is not applicable to the WCGS CR/CB design, you may decide not to perform the correlation of results of the ATD method with a test performed on the WCGS CR/CB design with a methodology described in ASTM E471. If so, you are requested to provide an assessment to show that the use of the alternative ATD test method provides an equivalent level of quality and safety in the determination of the unfiltered inleakage into the WCGS control room envelope.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-482

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Wolf Creek Generating Station

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