UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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March 3, 2008

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER- WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000482/2008001)

Dear Mr. Muench:

On February 5, 2008, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2007. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, the Wolf Creek Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

During the 2006 Annual Assessment and the 2007 Midcycle Assessment, the NRC identified a crosscutting theme associated with the work practices component of the human performance area related to the failure to use and/or communicate human error prevention techniques. During the current performance period, the NRC staff identified a substantive crosscutting issue in the human performance area at Wolf Creek. There were eight findings associated with the work practices component of the human performance area. Four of these findings had a common theme related to the failure to use and/or communicate human error prevention techniques. The remaining four findings had a common theme related to the failure to communicate expectations regarding procedural compliance. These findings occurred in the Initiating Events, Mitigating Systems, and Barrier Integrity cornerstones. These deficiencies resulted in: tripping a condensate pump and subsequent steam generator level transient, inadvertent isolation of both containment purge radiation monitors, a reactor downpower due to an automatic turbine load reduction due to the unplanned trip of a circulating water pump, and a

failure to maintain sufficient logs which complicated control room operators' ability to evaluate emergency action levels and Technical Specifications during the unexpected loss of a significant number of main control board annunciators during a routine power supply replacement.

As discussed above, failure to use human error prevention techniques is a continuation of the theme discussed in both the annual assessment and midcycle assessment letters dated, March 3, 2007, and August 31, 2007, respectively. In each of these assessment letters, the NRC acknowledged that you were aware of this theme and were implementing corrective action to address this theme. As early as 2004, your staff identified negative trends in human performance and implemented corrective action to address this trend. Subsequent assessments indicated that these actions were less than fully effective. Some of the specific actions you implemented to address this theme included the development of a Human Performance Initiative, led by site management. Specific actions in this initiative included: promoting excellence by ensuring station personnel understand and demonstrate human performance fundamentals, ensuring coaching and oversight are effective at achieving desired performance, ensuring root cause and apparent cause evaluations effectively identify organization and process contributors, and ensuring personnel take ownership of station performance by demonstrating sensitivity for error likely situations and developing defensive strategies. Since its implementation, the Human Performance Initiative has not been fully effective. This is demonstrated by the continuation of the human error prevention theme and the identification of a new theme that involves the failure to communicate expectations regarding procedural compliance. Your actions, to date, have not proven effective in mitigating this crosscutting issue. As a result, the human performance substantive crosscutting issue will remain open until we determine, through the implementation of the focused baseline inspections, that corrective actions have been effective.

The staff also identified that there were more than three Green inspection findings for the current 12-month assessment period with documented crosscutting aspects in the problem identification and resolution area. There is a crosscutting theme associated with these findings that involves the failure of site personnel to implement corrective action with a low threshold to allow for the complete, accurate, and timely resolution of issues. While there were more than three Green inspection findings with documented crosscutting aspects in problem identification and resolution associated with this crosscutting theme, we understand that this represents a recent performance trend. Once identified, you placed the issue into your corrective action program and are currently developing plans to address this issue. Because you have taken actions to address this recent performance trend, the staff did not identify a substantive crosscutting issue in problem identification and resolution. We will monitor the effectiveness of your corrective actions during the next performance period.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2009. In addition to the baseline inspection program, we plan to conduct Temporary Instruction 2515/150, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles." The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817-860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Vincent G. Gaddy, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

Enclosure:
Wolf Creek Generating Station Inspection/ Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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Wolf Creek
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2008 - 06/30/2009

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	2515/150	**- VESSEL HEAD INSPECTION**	**2**			
1	IP 2515/150	Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC ORDER EA-03-009)		03/03/2008	04/07/2008	Safety Issues
	EB1-08	**- INSERVICE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES**	**4**			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		03/31/2008	04/11/2008	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS1	**- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS**	**1**			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		03/31/2008	04/04/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-05T	**- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION**	**5**			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		09/15/2008	09/19/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		10/20/2008	10/24/2008	Baseline Inspections
	RP TEAM	**- RADIATION SAFETY TEAM INSPECTION**	**5**			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Program		09/08/2008	09/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS2	**- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA**	**1**			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/06/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/06/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		10/06/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		10/06/2008	10/10/2008	Baseline Inspections
	REQUAL	**- BIENNIAL REQUALIFICATION**	**3**			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		10/20/2008	10/24/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EP2	**- EP PROGRAM**	**1**			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		12/15/2008	12/19/2008	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Wolf Creek
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2008 - 06/30/2009

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	EP1	**- EP EXERCISE INSPECTION**	**3**			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		05/18/2009	05/22/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		05/18/2009	05/22/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/18/2009	05/22/2009	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

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SUNSI Review Completed: VGG ADAMS: √ Yes □ No Initials: VGG
√ Publicly Available □ Non-Publicly Available □ Sensitive √ Non-Sensitive
R:_Reactors\EOC and Midcycle\EOC Assessment Letters\2007 – dated 3-3-08\WC.doc

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