



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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June 7, 2010

Matthew W. Sunseri, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER – WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Sunseri:

On June 3, 2010, the NRC staff completed, as part of our continuous review, an updated assessment of Wolf Creek Generating Station performance. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your safety performance and our plans for future inspections at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supersede, our annual assessment letter issued on March 3, 2010.

Our review of Wolf Creek Generating Station identified that you have crossed the threshold from Green to White for the Unplanned Scrams with Complications performance indicator as a result of unplanned scrams in 2009 that were the subject of a recently resolved Reactor Oversight Process Working Group Frequently Asked Question. On April 28, 2009, the main feedwater regulating valve controller power supply fuses failed, isolating flow to steam Generator B and resulting in a reactor trip from loss of power to a main feed regulating valve controller. Also, on August 21, 2009, while in Mode 3, operators using an intermittent method of feeding steam generators during shift turnover caused an unanticipated turbine trip signal and feedwater isolation. Based on the resolution of the Frequently Asked Question, you reported both of these reactor trips as Unplanned Scrams with Complications, which caused this performance indicator in the Initiating Events cornerstone to be White starting in the third quarter of 2009.

This White input is in addition to the White inputs already reported for the Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours performance indicator in the Initiating Events cornerstone and the Safety System Functional Failures performance indicator in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone. As a result, we have assessed Wolf Creek Generating Station performance to be in the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix beginning in the first quarter of 2010 based on two White inputs in the Initiating Events cornerstone and three White inputs in the Reactor Safety strategic performance area. Therefore we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, "Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," during the current assessment cycle. This inspection procedure is conducted to provide assurance that the root and contributing causes for the individual and collective risk significant performance issues are understood, to independently assess the extent of condition, to provide assurance that the corrective actions

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are sufficient to prevent recurrence, and to independently determine if safety culture components caused or significantly contributed to the individual or collective (multiple white inputs) risk significant performance issues.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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).

Please contact Geoffrey Miller at 817-860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

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ADAMS: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review Complete		Reviewer Initials: GM
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