



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

March 4, 2014

Mr. Adam C. Heflin, President
and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR WOLF CREEK GENERATING
STATION (REPORT 05000482/2013001)**

Dear Mr. Heflin:

On February 12, 2014, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Wolf Creek Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of Wolf Creek Generating Station during this period and its plans for future inspections at that facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Wolf Creek Generating Station was operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Wolf Creek Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that plant performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

Although plant performance was within the Licensee Response Column, the NRC has not yet finalized the significance of a preliminary Greater-than-Green finding in the physical security cornerstone documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2013403 (ML13346A227). The final safety significance determination may affect the NRC's assessment of plant performance and the enclosed inspection plan. You will be notified by separate correspondence of the final significance for this finding, as well as any changes to our performance assessment and associated inspection plan.

At the beginning of this assessment cycle, Wolf Creek Generating Station was in the Degraded Cornerstone Column because there was one Yellow finding and one White performance indicator in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone. The Yellow finding involved your staff's failure to provide adequate oversight of contractors while they performed work that could affect safety-related equipment in April 2011. The performance indicator for Mitigating Systems Performance Index – Emergency AC System (MSPI – EAC) had been reported as White since the first quarter of 2012. On June 7, 2013, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection pursuant to Inspection Procedure 95002, "Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," at Wolf Creek Generating Station. This

inspection was performed to assess your staff's evaluation of the root causes, contributing causes, and corrective actions associated with the Yellow finding, and included an assessment of actions to address four open substantive cross-cutting issues. The team also performed a limited scope independent safety culture assessment follow-up in accordance with Inspection Procedure 40100, "Independent Safety Culture Assessment Follow-up." The inspectors determined that your staff performed a comprehensive evaluation to identify appropriate causes for the Yellow finding, and corrective actions were appropriate to address those causes. Based on the results of this inspection, the Yellow finding was closed in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2013010 (ML13203A329).

On April 29, 2013, the NRC completed the supplemental inspection to review the action taken to address the White MSPI - EAC, pursuant to Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." As documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2013009 (ML13126A197), this inspection was performed to assess your staff's evaluation of the root causes, contributing causes, and corrective actions associated with the White PI. The PI data reported for Wolf Creek Generating Station for the second quarter of 2013 indicated that MSPI – EAC had returned to Green. Therefore, since four quarters had passed since the White PI was identified; the NRC had concluded based on the 95001 supplemental inspection results, that you had adequately evaluated and addressed the performance issues; and given that the PI had returned to Green as of June 30, 2013, Wolf Creek Generating Station was returned to the Licensee Response column as of July 1, 2013.

The NRC also issued a Chilling Effect Letter (CEL) (ADAMS ML13233A208) to Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation on August 19, 2013. The CEL was issued because the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) had issued a finding of discrimination for raising safety concerns against a former employee of an engineering contractor employed by Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, and due to the NRC identifying that a chilled work environment existed within your facility's Quality Assurance Group. Issuance of a CEL meets the NRC criteria in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," for the identification of a cross-cutting theme in the area of safety conscious work environment (SCWE). However, the NRC has assessed your 30-day and 6-month responses to the CEL, and conducted a public meeting in the Region IV office on January 22, 2014, to discuss the actions that you are taking to address the working environment at your facility. The NRC has decided not to open a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of SCWE at this time because the NRC staff does not have a concern with your actions. This theme will continue to be reviewed during the next two performance assessments as we continue to monitor your staff's actions to ensure Wolf Creek Generating Station is a workplace that fosters an environment where employees feel free, and are encouraged, to raise safety concerns.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections scheduled to be conducted during the last nine months are tentative and may be revised based on the results of the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact your staff as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

An NRC audit of licensee efforts towards compliance with Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," is ongoing. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate mitigating strategies as described in licensee submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will aid the NRC staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The NRC staff will be working with your staff to establish a date for the onsite component audit. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

As a result of the Safety Culture Common Language Initiative, the terminology and coding of cross-cutting aspects were revised effective January 1, 2014. New cross-cutting aspects will be coded in accordance with the latest revision to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0310, "Aspects within Cross-Cutting Areas", dated December 19, 2013. Cross-cutting aspects identified in the last six months of 2013 using the previous terminology will be converted to the revised language in accordance with the cross-reference in IMC 0310. The revised cross-cutting aspects will be evaluated for cross-cutting themes and potential substantive cross-cutting issues in accordance with IMC 0305 starting with the calendar year 2014 mid-cycle assessment.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter will be 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 Neil O'Keefe at 817-200-1141 with any questions you or your staff may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marc L. Dapas,
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-482
License No. NPF-42

Enclosure:
Inspection Plan

R:_REACTORS\EOC 2013\WC2013 EOC LTR NFO 140304.docx ML14063A628

ADAMS: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review Complete	Reviewer Initials: NFO
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-publicly Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive
DRP B/BC	DRS/DIR	DRP/DIR	RA
NO'Keefe	JClark	KKennedy	MDapas
<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>
02/26/2014	02/28/2014	02/28/2014	03/03/2014

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WolfCreek
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2014 - 06/30/2015

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY		2
	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71151-0R01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R		4
	05/19/2014	05/23/2014	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 711528	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			RS 5678 - RADIATION SAFETY- TEAM		4
	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.01	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			INSP - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION		3
	08/25/2014	08/29/2014	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION		4
	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
			EP-1 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
			EP-2 - EP PROGRAM INSPECTION		
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
			71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION		
	02/23/2015	03/06/2015	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			RS 13 PI - RADIATION SAFETY		2
	03/09/2015	03/13/2015	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
	03/09/2015	03/13/2015	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
	03/09/2015	03/13/2015	IP 71151-0R01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

WolfCreek
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			RS 13 PI -RADIATION SAFETY		2
	03/09/2015	03/13/2015	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			EB1-17T - WC PERMANENT PLANT MODS & 50.59		
	06/15/2015	06/26/2015	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.