



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION IV
1600 E LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 1, 2015

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR WOLF CREEK GENERATING
STATION (REPORT 0500482/2015005)**

Dear Mr. Heflin:

On August 11, 2015, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-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 July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Wolf Creek Generating Station 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 your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the second half of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-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 you 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.

On February 27, 2015, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed a team inspection at Wolf Creek Generating Station. The inspection focused on the station's progress in addressing safety culture issues related to the NRC Chilling Effect Letter (CEL) dated August 19, 2013 (ML13233A208). The team determined that Wolf Creek Generating Station has taken appropriate actions to foster a workplace environment that encourages employees to raise safety concerns and to feel free to do so without fear of retaliation. The team concluded that no chilling effect existed at Wolf Creek Generating Station, and that the station has made

reasonable progress in addressing the issues leading up to the issuance of the CEL. This inspection is documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2015008, dated April 7, 2015 (ML 15086A560). The NRC closed the CEL in a letter dated April 7, 2015 (ML 15090A263), and considers the cross-cutting theme in safety conscious work environment (SCWE) closed.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate licensee plans for complying with the Orders, as described in site-specific submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (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 Nicholas H. Taylor, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch B, at 817-200-1141 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Troy W. Pruett, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Wolf Creek Generating Station
Inspection/Activity Plan

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OFFICE	RIV/BC/DRP	RIV/D/DRS	RIV/D/DRP				
NAME	NTaylor	AVegel	TPruett				
SIGNATURE	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>				
DATE	8/26/15	8/26/15	8/27/15				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Adam C. Heflin from Troy W. Pruett dated September 1, 2015

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION (REPORT 05000482/2015005)

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Electronic Distribution via Listserv for Wolf Creek Generating Station

Wolf Creek

Inspection / Activity Plan

07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	10/19/2015	10/23/2015	EXAM X02549	- INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM INITIAL EXAM WC(11/2015)	5
1	11/16/2015	11/20/2015	X02549	INITIAL EXAM WC(11/2015)	
1	06/14/2015	08/14/2015	FBI IP 71153	- FOCUSED BASELINE INSPECTION Followup of Events and Notices of Enforcement Discretion	2
1	07/06/2015	07/10/2015	EB1-17T IP 7111117T	- WC PERMANENT PLANT MODS & 50.59 Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	3
1	07/20/2015	07/24/2015	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
1	12/07/2015	12/11/2015	EP-2 IP 7111404	- HAB EXERCISE INSPECTION Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	5
1	12/07/2015	12/11/2015	IP 7111407	Exercise Evaluation - Hostile Action (HA) Event	
1	12/07/2015	12/11/2015	EP-3 IP 71151-EP01	- EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Drill/Exercise Performance	2
1	12/07/2015	12/11/2015	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
1	12/07/2015	12/11/2015	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
1	03/28/2016	04/29/2016	EB1-21T IP 7111121	- WC COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION Component Design Bases Inspection	1
1	05/23/2016	05/27/2016	EB1-07T IP 711107T	- WC HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE Heat Sink Performance	1
1	05/23/2016	05/27/2016	RS 5678 IP 71124.05	- RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	4
1	05/23/2016	05/27/2016	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	05/23/2016	05/27/2016	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	05/23/2016	05/27/2016	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	TSB 52B IP 71152B	- BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION Problem Identification and Resolution	4
1	06/27/2016	07/01/2016	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	07/18/2016	07/22/2016	INSP IP 7111111B	- BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION Licensed Operator Requalification Program	3
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	EP-1 IP 71151-EP02	- BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION ERO Readiness	1
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 71151-IE01	Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hrs	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.

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

Wolf Creek

Inspection / Activity Plan

07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EP-2 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
			RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY		2
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	
			71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
1	10/03/2016	10/14/2016	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			RS 13 PI - RADIATION SAFETY		2
1	05/08/2017	05/12/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	05/08/2017	05/12/2017	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	05/08/2017	05/12/2017	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	05/08/2017	05/12/2017	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	
			RS 24 - RADIATION SAFETY		2
1	06/12/2017	06/16/2017	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	06/12/2017	06/16/2017	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	