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

December 21, 2016

EA-16-210

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

SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION, NRC SECURITY INSPECTION  
REPORT 05000482/2016410 AND PRELIMINARY GREATER THAN GREEN  
FINDING

Dear Mr. Heflin:

On November 15, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed a security inspection at your Wolf Creek Generating Station and the NRC inspector discussed the results of this inspection with Mr. C. Reasoner, Site Vice President, and other members of your staff. The results of the inspection are documented in the enclosed report.

The enclosed report discusses a finding with an associated apparent violation that the NRC has preliminarily determined to have greater than very low security significance. We assessed the significance of this finding using the Baseline Security Significance Determination Process and readily available information. The deficiency was promptly corrected or compensated for, and the plant was in compliance with, applicable physical protection and security requirements within the scope of the inspection before the inspector left the area. We are considering escalated enforcement for this apparent violation consistent with our Enforcement policy, which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/enforce-pol.html>. Because we have not made a final determination, no notice of violation is being issued at this time. Please be aware that further NRC review may prompt us to modify the number and characterization of the apparent violation.

We intend to issue our final significance determination and enforcement decision, in writing, within 90 days from the date of this letter. The NRC's significance determination process is designed to encourage an open dialogue between your staff and the NRC; however, neither the dialogue nor the written information you provide should affect the timeliness of our final determination.

**“Enclosure transmitted herewith contains Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information. When separated from enclosure, this transmittal document is decontrolled.”**

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Before we make the final decision, you may choose to communicate your position on the facts and assumptions used to arrive at the finding and assess its significance by either (1) attending and presenting at a regulatory conference or (2) submitting your position in writing. The focus of a regulatory conference is to discuss the significance of the finding. Written responses should reference the inspection report number and enforcement action number associated with this letter in the subject line. Responses related to this apparent violation should include (a) the reason for the apparent violation, (b) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (c) the corrective steps that will be taken, and (d) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response may reference or include previously docketed correspondence if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response.

If you request a regulatory conference, it should be held within 40 days of your receipt of this letter. Please provide information you would like us to consider or discuss within 10 days prior to any scheduled conference. If you choose to attend a regulatory conference, it will be closed for public observation since security sensitive-related information will be discussed. If you decide to submit only a written response, it should be sent to the NRC with 40 days of your receipt of this letter. If you choose not to request a regulatory conference or to submit a written response, you will not be allowed to appeal the NRC's final significance determination in that by doing so, you fail to meet the appeal requirements stated in the Prerequisites and Limitations section of Attachment 2 of NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609.

Please contact Neil O'Keefe at (817) 200-1574 and in writing within 10 days from the issue date of this letter to notify the NRC of your intentions. If we have not heard from you within 10 days, we will continue with our significance determination.

In addition to the apparent violation, the inspector documented one finding of very low security significance (Green) in this report. This finding involved a violation of NRC requirements. The NRC is treating this violation as a non-cited violation (NCV) consistent with Section 2.3.2.a of the Enforcement Policy.

If you contest the violation or significance of the NCV, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region IV; the Director, Office of Enforcement; the Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response; and the NRC resident inspector at the Wolf Creek Generating Station.

If you disagree with a cross-cutting aspect assignment or a finding not associated with a regulatory requirement in this report, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis of your disagreement, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region IV; the Director, Office of Enforcement; the Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response; and the NRC resident inspector at the Wolf Creek Generating Station.

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This letter will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Request for Withholding."

However, the material enclosed herewith contains Security-Related Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1), and its disclosure to unauthorized individuals could present a security vulnerability. Therefore, the material in the enclosure will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. If Security-Related Information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please mark your entire response Security-Related Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Anton Vogel, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Nonpublic Enclosure:  
NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2016410  
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information

cc w/o enclosure: Electronic Distribution  
Mr. Mike Skiles  
Security Manager  
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation  
P.O. Box 411  
Burlington, KS 66839

cc w/o encl: Electronic Distribution

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Anton Vegel, Director  
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Letter to Mr. Adam C. Heflin from Anton Vegel, dated December 21, 2016

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REPORT 05000482/2016410 AND PRELIMINARY GREATER THAN GREEN  
FINDING

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