

In Reply Refer To:
Docket: STN 50-482/89-30

JAN 3 1990

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
ATTN: Bart D. Withers
President and Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Dr. D. Blair Spitzberg of this office and other accompanying personnel during the period December 5-7, 1989, of activities authorized by NRC Operating License NPF-42 for the Wolf Creek Generating Station, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. Bart D. Withers, President and Chief Executive Officer, and members of his staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection included the implementation of the emergency plan and procedures during the annual emergency response exercise. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspectors. The inspection findings are documented in the enclosed inspection report.

Within the scope of the inspection, no violations or deviations were identified.

The enclosed inspection report identified exercise weaknesses in your emergency preparedness program. Weaknesses involved the following: Failure of the emergency operations facility staff to be aware of significant reactor conditions, and inadequacies associated with the exercise scenario.

Exercise weaknesses according to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E.IV.F.5, are inspection findings that need to be corrected by the licensee. You are requested to provide this office with a description of your corrective measures and your schedule for completing these actions within 30 days after receipt of this letter.

We have also examined actions you have taken with regard to previously identified inspection findings. The status of these items is identified in paragraph 2 of the enclosed report.

In addition to the exercise weaknesses, the inspectors observed that your telephones in the technical support center and emergency operations facility performed in an erratic manner for a brief 1-2 minute period during the exercise. During the exit meeting, your staff stated that they had observed the same phenomenon. Because of this observation, we are concerned about the

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C:SEPS ~~DB~~
DAPowers ~~DB~~
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12/29/89

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reliability of your telephone communications during an emergency. Consequently, we are tracking this as an open item and request that you respond in writing with: (1) an evaluation of the observations made by the NRC and your staff relative to the performance of your telephone system during the exercise, (2) a description of any similar problems with your emergency facility telephones which may have been experienced previously, (3) a description of possible causes of the events observed, and (4) a description of any additional testing or remedial action that may be needed. We would appreciate your response within 30 days of the receipt of this letter.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

/s/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:
Appendix - NRC Inspection Report
50-482/89-30

cc w/enclosure:
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
ATTN: Otto Maynard, Manager
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Kansas Corporation Commission
ATTN: Robert Elliot, Chief Engineer
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Topeka, Kansas 66612

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Kansas Department of Health
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ATTN: Senior Resident Inspector
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bcc to DMB (IE35)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

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*RIV File

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