



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 90 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-42

WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION

WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-482

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated July 25, 1995, Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (Appendix A to Facility Operating License No. NPF-42) for the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The proposed changes would revise TS 4.0.5a, "Surveillance Requirements for Inservice Inspection and Testing Program," and Bases Section 3/4.4.10, "Structural Integrity." The TS changes relate to inservice inspection (ISI) and inservice testing (IST) requirements which are specified in Section 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (the Code) is incorporated by reference as the requirements for ISI and IST (as specified in Section XI of the Code). The proposed change deletes a clause in TS Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.0.5a in accordance with the recommendations of NUREG-1482, "Guidelines for Inservice Testing at Nuclear Power Plants." Bases Section 3/4.4.10 was relocated to the updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR) by Amendment No. 89 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-42 concerning the technical specification improvement program. Therefore, changes to that section will be done using the licensee's USAR change procedure as allowed by 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, tests and experiments".

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Commission's final policy statement on technical specifications improvements defines the scope of the technical specifications and provides a criterion for technical design items to be included in, or relocated out of the TS document. On July 19, 1995 (60 FR 36953), the NRC published the final rule governing the implementation of this policy via a revision of 10 CFR 50.36, "Technical Specifications," which became effective August 18, 1995. The April 7, 1995, revised version of the Standard Technical Specifications (STS) (NUREG-1431, Rev. 1), relocates the IST requirements to the administrative controls section of the TS and deletes a portion of the ISI requirements, retaining the reactor coolant pump (RCP) flywheel inspections in the administrative control section. NUREG-1482, Chapter 6, recommends that licensees revise their TSs to incorporate the revised STS for IST programs.

The 10-year interval for the Wolf Creek IST program began September 4, 1995, and the current ISI program is based on the requirements of the 1989 Edition of the ASME Code. The TS change will allow the licensee a period of 12 months from the beginning of the interval to identify, submit, and obtain approval of relief requests for impractical code requirements in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a, paragraphs (f)(5) and (g)(5), for IST and ISI respectively.

3.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has made a revision to SR 4.0.5a deleting the clause requiring written relief from the Commission under all ISI and IST testing deviations. Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation based these revisions on the guidance of the draft NUREG-1482; however, subsequent revisions have incorporated guidance regarding relief from the Commission. If an impracticality is determined within the initial interval or within the first 12 months of a new interval, the licensee follows the requirements in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(5)(iii) and (iv) or (g)(5)(iii) and (iv). If an impractical requirement is identified during subsequent intervals and not within the first 12 months, the licensee must meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(5)(iii) or (g)(5)(iii), notify the Commission, submit the information supporting the determination of impracticality, and obtain NRC's approval pursuant to (f)(6)(i) or (g)(6)(i), prior to the time that the next test or inspection is required. However, the specification does not allow the licensee to implement alternative testing under paragraphs 50.55a (a)(3)(i) and (ii) until authorized by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

These changes to the licensee's TS are consistent with the intent of the revised STS and the regulatory guidance in NUREG-1482. The ISI and IST requirements are given in 10 CFR 50.55a, which the licensee documents via its 10-year interval program requirements. The change is acceptable since the regulatory requirements are delineated in 10 CFR 50.55a, and the change eliminates inconsistencies between the TS and the regulations.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Kansas State Official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a surveillance requirement. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (60 FR 45191). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for

categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Date: October 4, 1995