



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

APR 24 1996

EA 96-124

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
ATTN: Neil S. Carns, President and
Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT 50-482/96-03

This refers to the special inspection conducted by Mr. Howard Wong and others of this office on March 18-25, 1996, at the Wolf Creek Generating Station facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. An exit meeting by telephone was conducted on April 5, 1996, to present the results of the special inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. This special inspection was conducted to follow up on the NRC's Augmented Inspection Team findings, which were documented in NRC Inspection Report 50-482/96-05, and to review the adequacy of your restart actions in response to the frazil ice event that occurred on January 30-31, 1996. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, 10 apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. These violations involved: (1) the root causes of the essential service water system becoming degraded during the January 30-31, 1996, icing event at Wolf Creek (design errors, failures to identify the errors earlier, and misalignment of system valves during the event); (2) the root causes for the turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater (TDAFW) pump being declared inoperable due to a maintenance-related packing failure (failures to follow work instructions, inadequate work instructions, failures to fully resolve previously identified TDAFW pump problems, and inappropriate classification of work as "troubleshooting"); (3) the failure to have required procedures in the control room; and (4) the failure to conduct a timely cooldown to Mode 4 in accordance with the Technical Specifications. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

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PDR ADOCK 05000482
Q PDR

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A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for May 10, 1996, at 9 a.m. (CDT) in the Region IV office. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address whether: (1) the planned actions to prevent the recurrence of frazil ice formation on the essential service system trash racks will include the installation of an air sparging system; and (2) any other actions have been taken or planned as a result of additional auxiliary feedwater (AFW) system problems that were identified during AFW system testing that occurred at the end of the recently completed refueling outage.

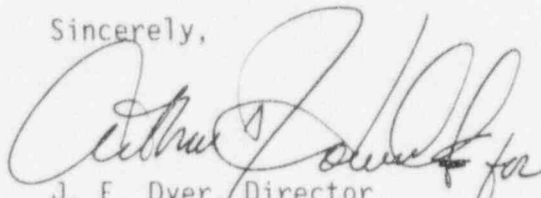
In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: (1) the severity of the violations, (2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and (3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. This conference will be open to public observation in accordance with the Commission's continuing trial program as discussed in the enclosed excerpt from the Enforcement Policy (Enclosure 2). Although not required, we encourage you to provide your comments on how you believe holding this conference open to public observation affected your presentation and your communications with the NRC.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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

Sincerely,



J. E. Dyer, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Wolf Creek Nuclear
Operating Corporation

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Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

Enclosures:

1. NRC Inspection Report
50-482/96-03
2. Enforcement Policy: Section V,
"Predecisional Enforcement Conferences"

cc w/enclosures:

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Burlington, Kansas 66839

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ATTN: Regional Administrator, Region III
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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
ATTN: Supervisor Licensing
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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
ATTN: Supervisor Regulatory Compliance
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Kansas Corporation Commission
ATTN: Chief Engineer
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Wolf Creek Nuclear
Operating Corporation

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County Clerk
Coffey County Courthouse
Burlington, Kansas 66839-1798

Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air & Radiation
ATTN: Public Health Physicist
Division of Environment
Forbes Field Building 283
Topeka, Kansas 66620

Division of Emergency Preparedness
ATTN: Mr. Frank Moussa
2800 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka, Kansas 66611-1287

Wolf Creek Nuclear
Operating Corporation

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APR 24 1996

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan	Resident Inspector
DRP Director	SRI (Callaway, RIV)
Branch Chief (DRP/B)	DRS-PSB
Project Engineer (DRP/B)	MIS System
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	RIV File
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)	
G. F. Sanborn, EO	
W. L. Brown, RC	
OE:EA File (MS: 7-H-5)	
J. Stone, NRR (MS: 13-E-16)	
M. Davis, NRR (MS: 12-E-4)	

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