

DEC 2 1988

Docket No. 50-482

Mr. Bart D. Withers
President and Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Post Office Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Dear Mr. Withers:

SUBJECT: LOSS OF DECAY HEAT REMOVAL, WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

We have just issued Generic Letter 88-17 which addresses loss of decay heat removal (DHR) during nonpower operation.

This letter was issued because of the potential serious consequence of loss of shutdown cooling concurrent with significant core decay heat. Further, it is our belief that the industry as a whole has not aggressively responded to resolve the concern following its identification in our earlier Generic Letter 87-12. In particular, the industry's response to the Generic Letter 87-12 was deficient in the areas of (1) prevention of accident initiation, (2) mitigation of accidents before they potentially progress to core damage, and (3) control of radioactive material if a core damage accident should occur. Generic Letter 88-17 prescribes expeditious actions which should immediately ease the concern; and parallel, but longer term, programmed enhancements which effectively address the root cause of the problems and permit greater flexibility in operation.

We consider this issue to be of high priority and request that you assure that your organization addresses it accordingly.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. Murley".

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. Bart D. Withers
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation

Wolf Creek Generating Station
Unit No. 1

cc:

Jay Silberg, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
1800 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Chris R. Rogers, P.E.
Manager, Electric Department
Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Senior Resident Inspector/Wolf Creek
c/o U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 311
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Mr. Robert Elliot, Chief Engineer
Utilities Division
Kansas Corporation Commission
4th Floor - State Office Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1571

Mr. Gerald Allen
Public Health Physicist
Bureau of Air Quality & Radiation
Control
Division of Environment
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Forbes Field Building 321
Topeka, Kansas 66620

Mr. Gary Boyer, Plant Manager
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P. O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Executive Director
for Operations
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. Otto Maynard, Manager Licensing
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P. O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839