



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

JAN 29 1998

Otto L. Maynard, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-482/97-23 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Maynard:

An NRC inspection was conducted December 14, 1997, through January 24, 1998, at your Wolf Creek Generating Station reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During this inspection, two cited violations of NRC requirements were identified in the areas of operations and maintenance. Violation A indicated that operators misunderstood the expectations for procedure usage in that they did not wait for nuclear station operators to complete procedure steps assigned to them, or get supervisory approval to continue, before continuing with subsequent procedure steps. Violation B resulted when technicians continued with a surveillance test when they were not confident that they were performing the procedure step properly, even after being questioned by the NRC inspector. They made a subsequent error that was identified by the NRC inspector and only identified the initial error when the test equipment ground fault interrupter tripped, deenergizing their test equipment.

The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding these violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use the response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

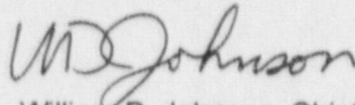
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

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PDR ADOCK 05000482
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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



William D. Johnson, Chief
Project Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-482/97-23

cc w/enclosures:
Chief Operating Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

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Topeka, Kansas 66612

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Vick L. Cooper, Chief
Radiation Control Program
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air and Radiation
Forbes Field Building 283
Topeka, Kansas 66620

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

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E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
 E-Mail report to T. Hiltz (TGH)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
 E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
 E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/B)
 Project Engineer (DRP/B)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

Resident Inspector (3)
 SRI (Callaway, RIV)
 DRS-PSB
 MIS System
 RIV File

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