



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

March 3, 2010

Matthew W. Sunseri, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER – WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000482/2010001)

Dear Mr. Sunseri:

On February 17, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Wolf Creek Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Wolf Creek Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility. The staff will also be conducting Inspection Procedure 92723, "Follow Up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period," to follow up on four Severity Level IV violations in the traditional enforcement area of impeding the regulatory process.

In our 2008 midcycle assessment letter dated September 2, 2008, our 2008 end-of-cycle assessment letter dated March 4, 2009, and our 2009 midcycle assessment letter dated September 1, 2009, we identified a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution. Our 2009 midcycle assessment letter closed themes in this area associated with an inadequate threshold for identifying problems [P.1(a)] and appropriateness of corrective actions [P.1(d)], but continued the cross-cutting issue based on a continuing theme with four findings associated with the thoroughness of problem evaluation [P.1(c)]. We stated that this substantive cross-cutting issue would remain open until we determined that your

corrective actions had resulted in improved performance. During public meetings with the NRC on October 21, 2008, July 1, 2009, and November 30, 2009, you informed us that you had completed a root cause analysis for noted deficiencies related to problem identification and resolution. You also informed us that you had implemented significant changes in improving the quality of problem evaluation including root cause evaluator training, conducting a management alignment seminar, and increasing management oversight of problem evaluation. We noted some improvement in this area through our inspection results at the 2009 midcycle assessment; however, we continued to identify findings associated with this theme during the second half of the assessment period, resulting in a total of twelve Green findings identified during this assessment period with this causal factor. Recent examples of these findings include: the failure to perform an adequate operability evaluation for the essential service water pumps; the failure to perform an operability evaluation for corroded essential service water piping, and the failure to properly evaluate conditions for reportability. Therefore, the substantive cross-cutting issue in problem identification and resolution associated with the thoroughness of problem evaluation [P.1(c)] will remain open until we determine through our inspections that corrective actions implemented in accordance with your improvement plan have resulted in improved performance in this area as demonstrated by no safety significant inspection findings and a notable reduction in the overall number of findings with this causal factor.

Of note, this is the fourth consecutive assessment with a substantive cross-cutting issue in problem identification and resolution associated with the thoroughness of problem evaluation. We understand that you have already scheduled a safety culture assessment to be completed in March 2010. We request that you conduct a public meeting in the vicinity of the site to discuss the results of this assessment. We are specifically interested in any weaknesses identified by the assessment, your planned corrective actions to address these weaknesses, and how you intend to apply the assessment results and corrective actions to improve overall station performance in problem identification and resolution. Finally, we also request you address your improvement efforts in problem identification and resolution during our annual end-of-cycle assessment meeting.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2011. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Geoffrey Miller at 817-860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Wolf Creek Inspection / Activity Plan

Vice President Operations / Plant Manager
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

Jay Silberg, Esq.
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Supervisor Licensing
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

Chief Engineer
Utilities Division
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Office of the Governor
State of Kansas
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Attorney General
120 S.W. 10th Avenue, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1597

Wolf Creek Operating Company

4

Chairman
Coffey County Courthouse
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Chief, Radiation and Asbestos
Control Section
Bureau of Air and Radiation
Kansas Department of Health and
Environment
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310
Topeka, KS 66612-1366

Chief, Technological Hazards
Branch
FEMA, Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway
Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114-3372

Chairman
Coffey County Commissioner
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Kimberly Robrahn
Coffey County Commissioner
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Larry Crotts
Coffey County Commissioner
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Bob Saueressig
Coffey County Commissioner
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Vice Chairman
Coffey County Commissioner
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Russel Stukey, Coffey County
Emergency Preparedness
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Sheriff
Coffey County Sheriff's Dept.
110 South 6th Street
Burlington, KS 66839

Mayor
City of Burlington
City Hall
P.O. Box 207
Burlington, KS 66839

Mayor
City of LeRoy
713 Main Street
LeRoy, KS 66857

The Mayor of New Strawn
City of New Strawn
City Hall
P.O. Box 922
New Strawn, KS 66839-0922

The Mayor of Gridley
City of Gridley
P.O. Box 182
Gridley, KS 66852

The Mayor of Waverly
City of Waverly
P.O. Box 308
Waverly, KS 66871

The Mayor of Lebo
City of Lebo
P.O. Box 14
Lebo, KS 66856-0014

Allen County Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator
Allen County Courthouse
P.O. Box 433
Iola, KS 66749

Lyon County Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator
425 Mechanic St.
Emporia, KS 66801

Anderson County Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator
315 Orange Street
Garnett, KS 66032

Osage County Emergency Manager
P. O. Box 281
Lyndon, Kansas 66451

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30339

Electronic distribution by RIV:

Regional Administrator (Elmo.Collins@nrc.gov)
 Deputy Regional Administrator (Chuck.Casto@nrc.gov)
 DRP Director (Dwight.Chamberlain@nrc.gov)
 DRP Deputy Director (Anton.Vegel@nrc.gov)
 DRSDirector (Roy.Caniano@nrc.gov)
 DRSDeputy Director (Troy.Pruett@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRP/B (Geoffey.Miller@nrc.gov)
 Senior Project Engineer, DRP/B(Rick.Deese@nrc.gov)
 Senior Resident Inspector (Chris.Long@nrc.gov)
 Resident Inspector (Charles.Peabody@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRS/TSB (Michael.Hay@nrc.gov)
 RITS Coordinator (Marisa.Herrera@nrc.gov)
 Public Affairs Officer (Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov)
 Public Affairs Officer (Lara.Uselding@nrc.gov)
 Regional State Liaison Officer (Bill.Maier@nrc.gov)
 RA Administrative Assistant (Lucy.Owen@nrc.gov)
 DRA Administrative Assistant (Anita.Tannenbaum@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRS/EB1 (Thomas.Farnholtz@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRS/EB2 (Neil.OKeefe@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRS/PSB1 (Michael.Shannon@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRS/PSB2 (Greg.Werner@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRS/OB (Mark.Haire@nrc.gov)
 OEDO RIV Coordinator (Leigh.Trocine@nrc.gov)
 Director, DIRS, NRR (Frederick.Brown@nrc.gov)
 Director, DORL, NRR (Joseph.Giitter@nrc.gov)
 Deputy Director, DORL, NRR (Robert.Nelson@nrc.gov)
 Chief, PLB IV, DORL, NRR (Michael.Markley@nrc.gov)
 NRR Project Manager (Balwant.Singal@nrc.gov)
 RidsNrrDirslpab Resource@nrc.gov
 ROPreports.Resource@nrc.gov
 Congressional Affairs Officer (Jenny.Weil@nrc.gov)
 mortensengk@INPO.org

File located: R:_Reactors\EOC2009\WC.doc

SUNSI Rev Compl.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ADAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reviewer Initials	GM
Publicly Avail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	GM
C:DRP/B	D:DRS	D:DRP			
GBMiller	RJCaniano	DDChamberlain			
/RA/	/RA/	/RA/			
02/25/10	02/25/10	02/25/10			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

T=Telephone

E=E-mail

F=Fax

Wolf Creek
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/01/2010 - 06/30/2011

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION					1
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 7111402	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
1	04/12/2010	04/16/2010	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
RS12MCA - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY					2
1	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7113011	Material Control and Accounting (MC&A)	
1	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
TSB-52B - BIENNIAL PI&R					4
1	07/12/2010	07/16/2010	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
1	07/26/2010	07/30/2010	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
EB1-21 - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION					6
1	09/07/2010	09/10/2010	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
1	09/20/2010	10/01/2010	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
BRQ - OPERATOR REQUAL INSP					2
1	10/04/2010	10/08/2010	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
RS678 - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM INSPECTION					3
1	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	IP 71124.07	Public Radiation Safety	
1	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
EB1-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE					1
1	10/25/2010	10/29/2010	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
EXAM - INITIAL EXAM					4
1	11/08/2010	11/12/2010	X02451	INITIAL EXAM -WC (11/2010)	
1	12/06/2010	12/17/2010	X02451	INITIAL EXAM -WC (11/2010)	
RP123 - RADIATION SAFETY					2
1	03/14/2011	03/18/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Wolf Creek
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/01/2010 - 06/30/2011

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			RP123 - RADIATION SAFETY		2
1	03/14/2011	03/18/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	03/14/2011	03/18/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
			PSB2-08P - INSERVICE INSPECTION		3
1	03/21/2011	04/15/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.