



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

September 3, 2013

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR WOLF CREEK GENERATING
STATION (REPORT 05000482/2013006)**

Dear Mr. Sunseri:

On August 13, 2013, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Wolf Creek Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

Performance at Wolf Creek Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because there was one Yellow finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone and one White performance indicator in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone. The Yellow finding involved your staff's failure to provide adequate oversight of contractors while they performed work that could affect safety-related equipment. The White performance indicator involved the Mitigating Systems Performance Index – Emergency AC System (MSPI – EAC).

On June 7, 2013, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection pursuant to Inspection Procedure 95002, "Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," at Wolf Creek Generating Station. The team also performed a limited scope independent safety culture assessment follow-up in accordance with Inspection Procedure 40100, "Independent Safety Culture Assessment Follow-up." The inspectors determined that your staff performed a comprehensive evaluation to identify appropriate causes for the Yellow finding, and corrective actions were appropriate to address those causes. Based on the results of this inspection, the Yellow finding was closed in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2013010 (ML13203A329). Therefore, in accordance with IMC 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," because the Yellow finding is closed and four quarters had passed, the NRC determined that the performance issues associated with the Yellow finding will not be considered in the Action Matrix after the end of the second quarter of 2013.

On February 19, 2013, we were notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the action taken to address the White MSPI – EAC performance indicator. On April 29, 2013, the NRC completed Inspection Procedure 95001, “Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area.” As documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2013009 (ML 13126A197), the NRC determined you identified the causes and developed appropriate corrective actions for the White performance indicator.

Our review of the performance indicator data reported for Wolf Creek Generating Station for the second quarter of 2013 indicated that MSPI – EAC had returned to Green and that four quarters have passed since the White performance indicator was identified. Based on the closure of the Yellow finding and the White PI, the Wolf Creek Generating Station performance is in the Licensee Response Column of the NRC’s action matrix effective July 1, 2013. Therefore, at this time, we plan to conduct baseline inspections at your facility.

In its assessment letter dated March 4, 2013 (ML13060A436), the NRC outlined the continued existence of substantive cross-cutting issues in the areas of problem identification and resolution and human performance associated with themes in the aspects of: (1) thoroughness of evaluating problems such that resolutions address causes and extent of condition [P.1(c)]; (2) appropriateness and timeliness of corrective actions [P.1(d)]; (3) use of conservative assumptions in decision-making [H.1(b)]; and (4) completeness and accuracy of design documentation, procedures, and work packages [H.2(c)]. As part of the Inspection Procedure 95002 supplemental inspection the NRC determined that the causes for each substantive cross-cutting issue had been evaluated and appropriate corrective actions had been planned or implemented that would address the causes. In each case, corrective actions had resulted in sustained improved performance. As a result, the NRC is closing all four substantive cross-cutting issues.

After the assessment period, the NRC issued a Chilling Effect Letter (CEL) (ML13233A208) to Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation on August 19, 2013. The CEL was issued as the result of two issues. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identified a finding of discrimination for raising safety concerns against a former employee of an engineering contractor employed by Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, and the NRC identified a chilled work environment within your Quality Assurance Group. The purpose of the CEL is to ensure that you are taking appropriate actions to ensure Wolf Creek is a workplace that fosters an environment where employees feel free, and are encouraged, to raise safety concerns. The CEL requested that you implement actions to address these issues.

Issuance of a CEL meets the NRC criteria in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, “Operating Reactor Assessment Program,” for the identification of a crosscutting theme in the area of safety-conscious work environment. Due to the CEL being issued after the completion of this assessment period, this theme will be evaluated during the end-of-cycle performance review of Wolf Creek Generating Station scheduled to be conducted in February 2014.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2014. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should

circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

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

Please contact Neil O'Keefe, Chief, at (817) 200-1141 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Steven A. Reynolds,
Acting Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure: Wolf Creek Generating Station Inspection / Activity Plan

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SUNSI Rev Compl.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ADAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reviewer Initials	NFO
Publicly Avail.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	NFO
RIV:BC/B	RIV:DRS/D	RIV: DRP/D	RIV: RA		
NOKeefe	TBlount	KKennedy	SReynolds		
/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/		
8/28/13	8/28/13	8/30/13	8/30/13		

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Wolf Creek
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 09/01/2013 - 12/31/2014

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	10/28/2013	11/01/2013	EB1-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION	Heat Sink Performance	1
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	EP-3 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Drill/Exercise Performance	1
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71151-EP01	ERO Drill Participation	
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71151-EP02	Alert & Notification System	
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	IP 71151-EP03		
1	11/04/2013	11/08/2013	EP1 - BIENNIAL EXERCISE INSPECTION	Exercise Evaluation	4
1	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	RS12 - RADIATION SAFETY	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	3
1	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71124.01	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71151-OR01		
1	03/17/2014	03/21/2014	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
1	04/28/2014	05/02/2014	TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R	Problem Identification and Resolution	4
1	05/12/2014	05/16/2014	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	RS 5678 - RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	5
1	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.05	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.06	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	06/02/2014	06/06/2014	IP 71124.07	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1	08/25/2014	08/29/2014	INSP - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	3
1	10/20/2014	10/24/2014	EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION	Fire Protection [Triennial]	4
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 7111105T		
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	EP-1 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Drill/Exercise Performance	1
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71151-EP01	ERO Drill Participation	
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71151-EP02	Alert & Notification System	
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 71151-EP03		
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	EP-2 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION	Alert and Notification System Testing	1
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 7111402	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	IP 7111403	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	

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