

NOV 30 1978

STN 50-482

William H. Ward, Esq.
Mid-America Coalition for Energy
Alternatives
5130 Mission Road
Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66205

Dear Mr. Ward:

This is in response to your request by letter dated October 16, 1978, that the Commission take specific actions with regard to Kansas Gas & Electric (KG&E) Company's Wolf Creek Generating Station. For the reasons set forth in the enclosed response to your letter, your request is hereby denied in part.

The Commission has recently obtained the requested nonconformance report (NCR), No. 1-0229-C, March 15, 1978. As explained in the enclosed response a copy of the NCR will be forwarded to you directly from our Region IV office.

A copy of this determination will be placed in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20555 and at the Coffey County Courthouse, Burlington, Kansas 66839. A copy will also be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for its review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c) of the Commission's regulations.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
J. G. Davis

John G. Davis
Acting Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosure:
NRC Determination of
Denial (10 CFR 2.206)

WPU/1nu

SE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCES

Phone Concurrence

OFFICE	RCI:IE	AB/RCI:IE	D:RCI:IE	ELD	XOOS	DATE
11/22/78	J. B. Henderson	G. Reinmuth	H. D. Thornburg	Murray	S. Bryan	11/22/78
11/22/78	11/22/78	11/22/78	11/22/78	11/22/78	11/22/78	11/25/78

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

In the Matter of
KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
(Wolf Creek, Generating Station, Unit 1)

Docket No. STN 50-482
(2.206)

By letter dated October 16, 1978, William H. Ward, Esq. on behalf of the Mid-America Coalition for Energy Alternatives (MACEA) requested the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue an order to Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) to obtain a document regarding a potential problem at Wolf Creek Generating Station and to delay delivery of the reactor pressure vessel to the site. This letter is being treated as a request for action pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations.

MACEA by Mr. Ward, requested specifically that the Commission issue an order directing KG&E deliver to MACEA and to place in the public document room an internal KG&E document, nonconformance report (NCR), No. 1-0229-C, 3/15/78, which deals with potential problems in the concrete in the reactor base pad. It further requested that the Commission issue an order to require that the reactor pressure vessel, scheduled to be delivered to the Wolf Creek site in the next month, be stored at its place of manufacture until any questions on safety of the reactor base mat are resolved.

The document which MACEA seeks to obtain is a nonconformance report, prepared by KG&E and maintained in their files, to identify a potential 50.55(e) construction deficiency in the concrete of the reactor base mat. A final report, dated October 26, 1978, concerning the subject of the nonconformance report was submitted by KG&E to the NRC. To verify the conclusions documented in that report, the Commission conducted a special inspection during which time a copy of the subject NCR (No. 1-0229-C, dated March 15, 1978) was obtained. Since copies of both documents, NCR No. 1-0229-C and the licensee's October 26, 1978 report and letters dated May 25, 1978 and May 3, 1978 are being forwarded to William H. Ward, it is no longer necessary to reach a determination as to whether it is necessary to issue an Order to KG&E.

MACEA also questioned allowing the reactor pressure vessel to be shipped knowing that it may have to undergo field storage as opposed to storage at its place of manufacture. Rather than being fragile, delicate devices, reactor vessels are designed to operate for 40 years under environmental conditions of temperature, pressure and radiation far more severe than they would see even in outside storage. Further, at the time of shipment they are carefully prepared and protected. Each vessel is mounted on a protective cradle or skid, all openings are carefully closed and sealed, all external surfaces are coated with protective material, and provisions are made to keep moisture from condensing inside the vessel. These provisions typically include pressurizing the vessel slightly with dry gas or use of a special moisture absorbing material to keep the air in the vessel dry.


Rarely is it possible to match reactor vessel manufacturing and shipping schedules exactly with site construction schedules. For this reason many vessels have been placed in storage for various lengths of time. The storage location has varied, depending on the project. In some instances the vessel has been stored at the manufacturer's facility, either under cover or in an open storage yard. In other instances vessels and other components have been placed in special offsite storage yards. In most instances the vessels have been stored on-site. None of the vessels have been damaged in storage, although all of them require some cleaning and removal of protective coatings at the time of installation. The NRC will require KG&E, as it requires all its licensees, to establish and maintain a system for monitoring the condition of the vessel in storage. Verification of the existence and adequacy of that system is a routine part of the NRC inspection program.

For the above reasons I have determined that no action is necessary concerning the location for the interim storage of the reactor vessel.

B [A copy of this determination will be placed in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and the local Public Document Room for the Wolf Creek Generating Station located at the Coffey County Courthouse, Burlington, Kansas 66839. A copy of this document will also be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for its review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c) of the Commission's regulations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice, this decision will constitute the final action of the Commission twenty (20) days after the date of issuance, unless the Commission on its own motion institutes review of this decision within that time.]

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


John G. Davis
Acting Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosures:

1. Final Report, dated 10/26/78
2. Interim Report, dated 5/25/78
3. Status Report, dated 5/3/78