



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

December 20, 2017

EA-17-149

Mr. Adam C. Heflin, President,  
Chief Executive Officer, and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation  
P.O. Box 411  
Burlington, KS 66839

**SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - FINAL SIGNIFICANCE  
DETERMINATION FOR A SECURITY-RELATED GREATER THAN GREEN  
FINDING, NOTICE OF VIOLATION, AND FOLLOW-UP ASSESSMENT LETTER;  
NRC SECURITY INSPECTION REPORT 05000482/2017490**

Dear Mr. Heflin:

This letter provides the final results of our significance determination of the preliminary Greater than Green finding identified in our previous communication dated November 2, 2017, which included U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Inspection Report 05000482/2017407 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession ML17306A559). This Greater than Green finding was discussed in detail in the subject inspection report.

In a letter dated November 8, 2017 (ADAMS Accession ML17319A088), Wolf Creek Generating Station did not contest the characterization or the risk significance of this finding. In that same letter, you requested a regulatory conference to provide the NRC information related to the scope and status of your corrective action plan. In accordance with your request, a regulatory conference was held on December 12, 2017, to discuss your views on this issue. During the conference, your staff described your assessment of the significance of the finding and the corrective actions taken to resolve it, including the root cause evaluation of the finding.

After considering the information developed during the inspection and the information you provided at the regulatory conference, the NRC has concluded that the finding is appropriately characterized as Greater than Green.

**The enclosure contains Official Use  
Only - Security-Related Information. Upon  
separation, this cover letter is decontrolled.**

A. Heflin

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You have 30 calendar days from the date of this letter to appeal the staff's determination of significance for the identified Greater than Green finding. Such appeals will be considered to have merit only if they meet the criteria given in the Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, Attachment 2. An appeal must be sent in writing to the Regional Administrator, Region IV, 1600 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, TX 76011.

The NRC has also determined that the finding is a violation of NRC requirements, as cited in the Notice of Violation (Notice) provided as Enclosure 1 (non-public). The circumstances surrounding the violation were described in detail in NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2017407. In accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, the Notice is considered escalated enforcement action because it is associated with a Greater than Green finding.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. If you have additional information that you believe the NRC should consider, you may provide it in your response to the Notice. The NRC review of your response to the Notice will also determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

As a result of our review of Wolf Creek Generating Station's performance, including this Greater than Green finding, we have assessed the performance of Wolf Creek Generating Station to be in the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, effective the fourth quarter of 2017. Therefore, we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection Response to Action Matrix Column 2 Inputs," when your staff has notified us of your readiness for this inspection. This inspection procedure is conducted to provide assurance that the root cause and contributing causes of risk significant performance issues are understood, the extent of condition and the extent of cause are identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

In accordance with Title 10 the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter, when separated from the enclosure, will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or in ADAMS, accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

However, the material enclosed herewith contains Security-Related Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and its disclosure to unauthorized individuals could present a security vulnerability. Therefore, the material in the enclosure will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or in ADAMS. If Security-Related Information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please mark your entire response "Security-Related Information - Withhold from Public Disclosure Under 10 CFR 2.390" in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response.

A. Heflin

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If you have any questions regarding the NRC's final significance determination or the enforcement aspects associated with this issue, please contact Mr. Jeremy Groom of my staff at 817-200-1527.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kriss M. Kennedy  
Regional Administrator

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

Nonpublic Enclosure:  
Notice of Violation

cc w/o enclosure:  
Electronic Distribution