



NRC PUBLIC

POOR ORIGINAL

Chairman Joseph H. Harris
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 E. St. NE
Washington DC 20555

DOCKET NUMBER

PROD. & UTIL. FAC. 50-482

May 20, 1979

The NRC currently has before it three (3) petitions calling for revocation of the Construction Permit of Wolf Creek Unit No. 1, Burlington, Kansas.

The public is fully aware of construction deficiencies in the nuclear plant. The public knows the NRC, in a PWR December 1, 1978, said the concrete base mat for the reactor is a "potential construction deficiency" and that the NRC considers this deficiency an "event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance."

The public knows the NRC report said, "When tested at the end of the specified 90 day curing period, approximately 50% of sixty-six sets of concrete test cylinder's exhibited strengths averaging about 10% below the specified design strength of 5000 pounds per square inch."

The public knows the NRC report said, "A review of the licensee's test data, equipment, actions and records by a team of inspectors and a consultant led to the conclusion that the concrete probably does not meet the specified strength requirements. The licensee's conclusion that the low strength results were caused by the test procedure or equipment problems could not be supported by the inspection team. Data analyzed by the team indicate that the test results may have been valid."

The public is fully aware of the contents of the February 16 Inspection Report which included the February 2 report of NRC consultant Rolland Harm.

The public is aware that Kansas Gas & Electric, the licensee of Wolf Creek, cannot find the "cause" of the 90-day low strength cylinder samples. Nor can the utility company explain why some concrete samples were weaker at 90 days than they had been at 28 days. The public knows the concrete was getting weaker when last tested.

KG&E has done everything it can to convince the NRC that everything is OK with the cement at Wolf Creek. They can't prove it by valid documentation and tests as outlined in the plant's design criteria, but they want the NRC and the public to accept their "assurances".

The citizens in the Wolf Creek area are counting on the NRC to "regulate civilian nuclear facilities to assure protection of public health and safety and the environment, and safeguarding of nuclear materials and facilities," like it says in the "1979 Information Please Almanac".

Under the circumstances of public awareness of construction deficiencies, how can the NRC expect citizens to accept a nuclear reactor that might contain "potential construction deficiencies" or "events of VERY POSSIBLE safety or public significance"? (to use NRC language)?

How can the NRC expect Kansans to accept something the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement didn't accept?

Do you really think Kansans are going to accept ~~the~~ the "assurances" of the utility company and the NRC after Three Mile Island?

The nuclear industry and the NRC has a "public image" problem. You can

7907060008

296 081

prove to Kansans that you're protecting us, not the nuclear industry, by shutting down Wolf Creek.

And if you won't shut it down, then at least make them build the damn thing "by the book". Don't let them operate that reactor ~~has~~ built. The entire Quality Control and Quality Assurance program at Wolf Creek has been questioned by the NRC. The public knows this as well.

The utility says the QC and QA programs are getting better, but what about the first 25% of the construction job? There's no way to go back and make sure that was done right.

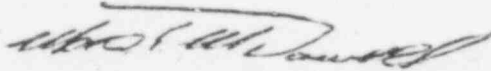
Don't make us live with the uncertainties surrounding the base mat concrete and the overall integrity of construction at Wolf Creek. Don't let them fire up that reactor as built. Stop construction.

The NRC knows it isn't built properly. The NRC has too many questions itself about the job to take a risk.

Is the NRC willing to take full responsibility for any construction deficiencies that might result in an accident at Wolf Creek?

It's your job to inspect, enforce ~~and~~ regulate. Do it! The opposition will never go away in Kansas. Never! There are too many unanswered questions. There are too many doubts. No one in Kansas will ever trust that nuclear plant or the NRC if it permits operation of Wolf Creek.

No more studies. No more investigations. No more pussy-footing. Shut It Down.



Max McDowell
Box #1
Winfield, Kansas 66850

PS. The public in the area is also aware of the dangers of zirconium cladding of fuel rods. People are not in the mood to have a nuclear plant rammed down their throats.

POOR ORIGINAL

296 082