



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

3/11

OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER

March 11, 1985

COMJA-85-4

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino  
Commissioner Roberts  
Commissioner Bernthal  
Commissioner Zech

FROM: James K. Asselstine *Jim*

SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK LOW POWER LICENSE

I have just been informed that the staff intends to issue a low power license for the Wolf Creek Generating Station. We have received several letters raising technical questions regarding Wolf Creek from elected State and Federal officials of the State of Kansas. To date, we have not seen proposed responses to those inquiries. I believe those officials deserve a response to their safety concerns before issuance of a low power license and I believe the Commission should so instruct the staff.

I ask that SECY obtain Commissioners responses to this memo by C.O.B. today.

cc: SECY  
CHAIRMAN-RECD  
CHAIRMAN-RECD  
OPE  
OGC  
EDO

12 MAR 85 10:46  
11 MAR 85 12:26

NOTE: Cmr Asselstine would like responses before he departs on travel at 4:00 pm.

Jim:

I understand that a number of letters from the EDO were sent today in response to the type of inquiries you mention. As a general rule I believe NRC should respond to technical questions as soon as practical, but I do not believe that all questions from persons outside NRC need to be answered before the staff issues a license.

*Jim* 3-11-85  
NJP

cc: As above

Joe -- I do not view these rush staff responses as satisfactory. They should have come to the Commission. Also, I do not view these letters from the Governor and legislators as trifling matters.

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PDR FOIA  
STEPHEN85-161 PDR

*James K. Asselstine* 3-11-85 C/10



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 11 1985

204A-5-Kan  
Wolf Creek

The Honorable John Carlin  
Governor, State of Kansas  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1590

Dear Governor Carlin:

Your letter of March 5, 1985 to Chairman Palladino, requested a full and complete examination of all safety matters relating to the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Your letter referred to safety concerns raised in the November 5, 1984 letter from the Kansas State Corporation Commission (KSCC), the February 1, 1985 letter from Congressman Glickman, the February 8, 1985 letter from Congressman Slattery, and the February 14 and February 18, 1985 letters from the Kansas State Legislators.

The NRC staff has completed our evaluation of the safety aspects of these matters. This information is provided as Enclosure I of this letter, including all references, and Enclosure II. Enclosure I describes a significant program of corrective action by the Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) which addressed not only the structural steel welding issue, but also included inspections and evaluations to determine that the aspects involved in the structural steel welding issue did not occur in other areas of construction. Enclosure I also describes the extensive NRC program of verification and independent inspection on all these issues to assure the adequacy of structural steel welding and that the QA program has been properly implemented. Based on the completed efforts of KG&E, which have been verified by NRC inspections, the NRC has concluded that these issues are resolved. Enclosure II describes information regarding problems involving cable separation and KG&E corrective action. Based on independent NRC inspections, we have concluded that adequate cable separation exists at Wolf Creek and this issue is resolved.

In some instances, in addition to assuring that all safety related aspects of each issue has been resolved, the NRC staff has referred certain items to the NRC Office of Investigation for additional investigation if required. At this time, we are not aware of any information from the Office of Investigations that constitutes a basis for withholding the issuance of a low power license for Wolf Creek. Therefore, the staff is proceeding with its review in support of the license issuance. Matters pertaining to all continuing investigations will be reviewed by the Commission prior to issuance of a full power license.

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MAR 11 1985

The Honorable John Carlin

- 2 -

Based upon the NRC staff review and inspection program we conclude that the facility has been constructed in conformance with the requirements of the Commission and its operation will not represent any undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

I believe that these findings represent a full and complete examination of all matters which relate to the plant's safety. The Congressional Delegation, the Kansas State Legislators and the Kansas Corporation Commission are being informed by separate letter.

Thank you for your interest with these matters.

Sincerely,

Signed William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures: - *IN BP*  
1. Structural Steel Issue  
2. Electrical Separation Issue

cc: Attorney General,  
State of Kansas

\*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES  
(RETYPE 3/9/85 kab)

D:DL *[initials]*  
HThompson  
3/9/85

D:NRR  
HDenton  
3/ /85

EDO *[initials]*  
WDircks  
03/11/85

LB#1:DL *[initials]*  
\*PO'Connor:es  
3/08/85  
09

LB#2:DL *[initials]*  
\*MRShrook  
3/08/85

LB#3:DL *[initials]*  
\*BJHoggblod  
3/08/85  
3-4-85

AD:DL *[initials]*  
\*TNovak  
3/08/85  
09

OELD  
3/ /85



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 11 1985

*Leay*  
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*Tane, will C.C.*

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

This is in continued response to your letter of January 9, 1985, and the NRC commitment in Chairman Palladino's letter of January 23, 1985, to provide you with a copy of NRC inspection reports relating to our followup on the reinspection of structural steel welding at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The NRC inspections have been completed and NRC Inspection Reports 50-482/85-12 and 50-482/85-13 are provided for you in Enclosure I (Reference 6).

Enclosure I provides a comprehensive summary description of the activities of both Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) and the NRC related to the structural steel issue. Enclosure I describes a significant program of corrective action by the KG&E which addressed not only the structural steel welding issue, but also included inspections and evaluations to determine that the aspects involved in the structural steel welding issue did not occur in other areas of construction. Enclosure I also describes the extensive NRC program of verification and independent inspection on all these issues to assure the adequacy of the structural steel welding and the implementation of the Quality Assurance (QA) program meets Commission requirements. Based on the completed efforts of KG&E, which have been verified by NRC inspections, the NRC has concluded that these issues are resolved.

We have also prepared additional information regarding problems involving cable separation. This information is provided in Enclosure II of this letter. Based on KG&E corrective action and independent NRC inspections, we have concluded that adequate cable separation exists at Wolf Creek Generating Station and this issue is resolved.

As you may recall, the Office of Investigations (OI) has recently initiated a number of investigations regarding alleged erroneous or falsified records. Some investigations are presently underway. At this time OI has no firm estimated completion date. One OI report regarding this subject has been recently completed. If you desire, we will be pleased to brief you on specific aspects of the investigations. In order to protect the integrity of the investigative process, we suggest such briefings be oral.

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C/12

3-11-85



The NRC technical staff has evaluated the safety aspects of missing and potentially falsified welding records, and has resolved the safety aspects of these issues, as indicated in Enclosure I. The NRC staff has evaluated the safety-related aspects of the other issues being reviewed by OI. At this time, we are not aware of any information from the Office of Investigations that constitutes a basis for withholding the issuance of a low power license for Wolf Creek. Therefore, the staff is proceeding with its review in support of the license issuance. Matters pertaining to all continuing investigations will be reviewed by the Commission prior to issuance of a full power license.

Because of your interest in being informed about NRC activities at the Wolf Creek plant, we are also advising you that NRC review of preoperational test activities indicated that some deficiencies had occurred in these activities. These deficiencies included instances of incorrect test conditions, incomplete verification of systems operation, and incomplete recording of test data. These matters were identified to KG&E and corrective actions, including any repeating of preoperational tests, were performed by the applicant and were reviewed by NRC inspectors. Actions taken by KG&E to prevent recurrence are responsive to the NRC concerns. The technical issues have been resolved, and actions necessary to support issuance of a license permitting fuel load and low power testing have been completed. The NRC is also reviewing the need for possible enforcement action relative to the deficiencies identified in the preoperational testing program. A copy of inspection reports and any enforcement correspondence related to this subject will be provided to you when they are issued to KG&E.

Based upon the NRC staff review and inspection program, we conclude that the facility has been constructed in conformance with the requirements of the Commission and its operation will not represent any undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,

~~Edward~~ William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

- IN BP*
1. Structural Steel Issue
  2. Electrical Separation Issue

\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE  
Revised in EDO Office (3/11/85)

\*D:NRR  
HDenton  
03/ /85

\*IE  
JTaylor  
03/9 /85

OCA  
03/ /85

EDO *WJD*  
WDircks  
03/9 /85

\*LB#1:DL *QWR*  
PO'Connor:kab  
03/11 /85

\*LB#1:DL  
BJYoungblood  
03/9 /85

\*AD:L:DL  
TNovak  
03/9 /85

\*D:DL  
HThompson  
03/9 /85

\*OELD  
03/9 /85

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**DATED: MAR 11 1985**

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 11 1985

The Honorable Jim Slattery  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Slattery:

This is in response to your letter of February 8, 1985, to Chairman Palladino requesting additional information on structural steel welding at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. This information is provided as Enclosure I of this letter, including all references. Enclosure I describes a significant program of corrective action by the Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) which addressed not only the structural steel welding issue, but also included inspections and evaluations to determine that the aspects involved in the structural steel welding issue did not occur in other areas of construction. Enclosure I also describes the extensive NRC program of verification and independent inspection on all these issues to assure the adequacy of the structural steel welding and that the Quality Assurance (QA) program has been properly implemented. Based on the completed efforts of KG&E, which have been verified by NRC inspections, the NRC has concluded that these issues are resolved.

We have also prepared additional information regarding problems involving cable separation. This information is provided in Enclosure II of this letter. Based on KG&E corrective action and independent NRC inspections, we have concluded that adequate cable separation exists at Wolf Creek Generating Station and this issue is resolved.

You also asked about the status of items assigned to the Office of Investigations (OI). OI has recently initiated a number of investigations regarding alleged erroneous or falsified records. Some investigations are presently underway. At this time OI has no firm estimated completion date. One OI report regarding this subject has been recently completed. If you desire, we will be pleased to brief you on specific aspects of the investigations. In order to protect the integrity of the investigative process, we suggest such briefings be oral.

The NRC technical staff has evaluated the safety aspects of missing and potentially falsified welding records, and has resolved the safety aspects of these issues, as indicated in Enclosure I. The NRC staff has evaluated the safety-related aspects of the other issues being reviewed by OI. At this time, we are not aware of any information from the Office of Investigations that constitutes a basis for withholding the issuance of a low power license for Wolf Creek. Therefore, the staff is proceeding with its review in support of the license issuance. Matters pertaining to all continuing investigations will be reviewed by the Commission prior to issuance of a full power license.

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C/13

3-11-85

The Honorable Jim Slattery

-2-

Because of your interest in being informed about NRC activities at the Wolf Creek plant, we are also advising you that NRC review of preoperational test activities indicated that some deficiencies had occurred in these activities. These deficiencies included instances of incorrect test conditions, incomplete verification of systems operation, and incomplete recording of test data. These matters were identified to KG&E and corrective actions, including any repeating of preoperational tests, were performed by the applicant and were reviewed by NRC inspectors. Actions taken by KG&E to prevent recurrence are responsive to the NRC concerns. The technical issues have been resolved, and actions necessary to support issuance of a license permitting fuel load and low power testing have been completed. The NRC is also reviewing the need for possible enforcement action relative to the deficiencies identified in the preoperational testing program. A copy of inspection reports and any enforcement correspondence related to this subject will be provided to you when they are issued to KG&E.

Based upon the NRC staff review and inspection program, we conclude that the facility has been constructed in conformance with the requirements of the Commission and its operation will not represent any undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,

~~Signed William J. Dircks~~

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Structural Steel Issue
  2. Electrical Separation Issue
- (See letter to Rep. Dingell for Encls., EDO 275)

REVISED IN EDO OFFICE (3/11/85)

\*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES

D:NRR	IE	OCA	EDO	
*HDenton	*JTaylor		WDircks	
03/08/85	03/9/85	03/ /85	03/11/85	
LB#1:DL <i>fwol</i>	LB#1:DL	AD:L:DL	D:DL	OELD*
*PO'Connor:kab	*BJYoungblood	*TNovak	*HThompson	
03/9/85	03/08/85	03/08/85	03/08/85	03/9/85



MAR 11 1985

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VStello

JTaylor

GCunningham

OI

RMartin, RIV

Fouchard, PA



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 11 1985

ID# R-5,  
Kam, Wolf Creek

The Honorable Dan Glickman  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Glickman:

This is in response to your letter of February 1, 1985, to Chairman Palladino requesting additional information on structural steel welding at the Wolf Creek Generating Station. This information is provided as Enclosure I of this letter, including all references. Enclosure I describes a significant program of corrective action by the Kansas Gas and Electric Company (KG&E) which addressed not only the structural steel welding issue, but also included inspections and evaluations to determine that the aspects involved in the structural steel welding issue did not occur in other areas of construction. Enclosure I also describes the extensive NRC program of verification and independent inspection on all these issues to assure the adequacy of the structural steel welding and that the Quality Assurance (QA) program has been properly implemented. Based on the completed efforts of KG&E, which have been verified by NRC inspections, the NRC has concluded that these issues are resolved.

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C/14

3-11-85

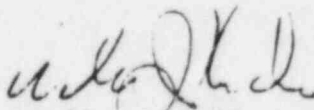
The Honorable Dan Glickman

- 2 -

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Sincerely,



William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Structural Steel Issue
2. Electrical Separation Issue