



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
511 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

OCT 25 1996

Neil S. Carns, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-482/96-19

Dear Mr. Carns:

An NRC inspection was conducted September 23 through October 4, 1996, at your Wolf Creek Generating Station reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

The principal focus of this inspection was to evaluate licensed operator performance and the effectiveness of corrective actions implemented as a result of the January 1996 frazil ice event. The inspection used the biennial licensed operator requalification examinations and extended control observations as the primary means of assessing licensed operator performance and corrective action effectiveness. The inspection also evaluated your operations training staff in the development, administration and evaluation of the biennial requalification examination. Overall, we observed good licensed operator performance with regard to communication, command and control, annunciator response, procedure usage, self-checking, and application of the "followup" and "timeout" concepts. Your staff pointed out that management expectations have not been fully met in all of these areas; however, they have observed improvement in all areas. We also observed improvement in many of these areas and concurred with your staff's assessment.

Your operations training staff did a good job in the development, administration, and evaluation of the biennial licensed operator requalification examinations. Some discrepancies were noted but they did not detract from the overall quality of the process. We identified a weakness in your plant referenced dynamic simulator certification process; however, it did not have a significant adverse affect on the examinations.

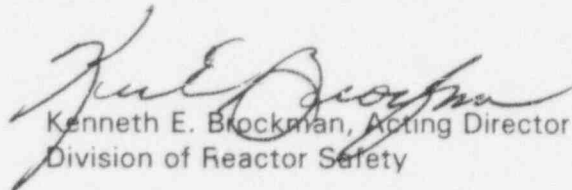
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Brockman, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-482/96-19

cc w/enclosure:
Vice President Plant Operations
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
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Division of Environment
Kansas Department of Health
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2800 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka, Kansas 66611-1287

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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan	Resident Inspector
DRP Director	SRI (Callaway, RIV)
Branch Chief (DRP/B)	DRS-OB
Project Engineer (DRP/B)	MIS System
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	RIV File
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)	S. Richards (NRR/HOLB)

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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
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