



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

NOV - 7 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 50-482/96-18 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Carns:

An NRC inspection was conducted September 8 through October 19, 1996, at your Wolf Creek Generating Station reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During this inspection, four violations were identified in the operations and engineering areas. The first two, violations of Technical Specifications 3.5.4 and 3.9.4, were identified and properly reported by your staff in Licensee Event Reports 96-004 and -005, but the corrective actions did not address the identified root cause in the first case and would have failed to prevent recurrence in the second. The fourth violation, associated with inadequate postmodification testing of a volts/hertz relay modification to your emergency diesel generators protective circuits, was also identified by your staff and properly reported in Licensee Event Report 96-007 but, during your immediate corrective actions for this violation, your staff caused the third violation when surveillance testing was performed at power when your Technical Specifications required this testing to be performed while shutdown. These corrective action weaknesses and other similar issues discussed in recent NRC inspection reports cause continuing concern with the effectiveness of your corrective action program.

We are also concerned about a noncited violation discussed in this report which occurred when an experienced engineer moved a locked high radiation area boundary without permission, and without informing your radiation protection personnel. While we consider this to be a very serious violation, we also noted that you regarded this with the same degree of concern as demonstrated by your prompt response and aggressive corrective action.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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PDR ADOCK 05000482
Q PDR

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation

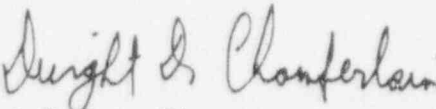
-2-

use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

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

Sincerely,


for J. E. Dyer, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-482/96-18

cc w/enclosures:
Vice President Plant Operations
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

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-3-

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Kansas Corporation Commission
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Topeka, Kansas 66612

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Coffey County Courthouse
Burlington, Kansas 66839-1798

Public Health Physicist
Division of Environment
Kansas Department of Health
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Bureau of Air & Radiation
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Mr. Frank Moussa
Division of Emergency Preparedness
2800 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka, Kansas 66611-1287

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
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-4-

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
E-Mail report to R. Correia (RPC)
E-Mail report to R. Frahm (RKF)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
DRP Director
Branch Chief (DRP/B)
Project Engineer (DRP/B)
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

Resident Inspector (3)
SRI (Callaway, RIV)
DRS-PSB
MIS System
RIV File

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
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