

February 19, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-97-011

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Wolf Creek Nuclear Oper. Corp.	Notification of Unusual Event
Wolf Creek 1	Alert
Burlington, Kansas	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-482	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: SUSPENSION OF WELDING AT WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

On Thursday, February 13, senior management at Wolf Creek Generating Station suspended all welding activities. A self-assessment of the welding program, prompted by concerns with improper welding documentation, identified additional instances of potentially improper welding program adherence. Licensee management expressed confidence in the quality of the welds and stated that the occurrences identified were minor in nature and did not impact plant operability or endanger the health and safety of the public or plant employees. Welding has been suspended pending completion of an internal investigation, and any required welding would be performed on an exception-only basis.

The state of Kansas will be informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector. Region IV has informed the EDO's office, NRR, and PA. The licensee issued a press release on February 18, 1997. Region IV responded to a press inquiry. Region IV is monitoring licensee actions and will conduct followup review as appropriate.

The information herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of February 18, 1997.

Contact: W. D. Johnson	B. Henderson
(817)860-8148	(817)860-8128

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PDR I&E
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