



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

SEP 26 1985

Mr. Allen M. Wooldridge, P. E.  
2339 George Washington Drive  
Wichita, Kansas 67218

Dear Mr. Wooldridge:

This is in response to your letter dated June 15, 1985, to Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum. The letter has been referred to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for response. You have identified several concerns related to the construction of the Wolf Creek Generating Station located near Burlington, Kansas.

The areas of concern that you have mentioned, piping integrity, welding quality assurance, piping cleanliness, and welder qualifications, are among the numerous aspects of construction that have been routinely inspected by the representatives of the NRC while Wolf Creek was being built.

The NRC safety review consists of an evaluation of each nuclear power plant under construction to assure that components, systems and structures important to safety are designed, fabricated, erected, and tested to quality standards commensurate with the importance of the safety functions to be performed. These reviews are conducted by some 50 different technical disciplines within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. In addition to the above evaluation, an onsite review of reactor construction is carried out by resident inspectors and regional based specialist inspectors. The region-based specialist inspector addresses such things as welding and nondestructive examinations, civil, mechanical, electrical and instrumentation engineering, preoperational testing, emergency preparedness, and environmental protection. The resident inspector applies more general experience in construction activities to assure that installations of equipment and structures are in accordance with design requirements and quality assurance procedures. The resident inspector has daily contact with construction management personnel from the utility, architect engineer, constructor, vendors, and contractors. He or she reviews procedures, observes the work, and audits quality control. He or she may also participate in NRC hearings, licensing meetings and public discussions.

During the construction of Wolf Creek, which began in 1977, approximately 40 inspectors expended 23,000 hours on inspection activities and readiness for operation of the Wolf Creek Generating Station. The results of each of these inspections have been documented in inspection reports issued by

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Mr. Allen M. Wooldridge

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the NRC. All of these inspection reports and numerous other NRC reports documenting the results of our review of Wolf Creek are on file and available for your inspection at the two local public document rooms which are located at Emporia State University, close to the reactor site, and in Topeka, Kansas at the Washburn University School of Law Library.

In order to be fully responsive to your request, we have enclosed for your information, copies of eleven inspection reports that deal specifically with the areas of concern indicated in your letter.

We trust that we have been responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

for William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Inspection Report No. 78-01  
dated January 24, 1978
2. Inspection Report No. 80-03  
dated February 26, 1980
3. Inspection Report No. 80-11  
dated June 17, 1980
4. Inspection Report No. 80-20  
dated October 23, 1980
5. Inspection Report No. 81-05  
dated April 27, 1981
6. Inspection Report No. 81-11  
dated June 16, 1981
7. Inspection Report No. 82-06  
dated April 29, 1982
8. Inspection Report No. 82-15  
dated November 3, 1982
9. Inspection Report No. 83-12  
dated August 26, 1983
10. Inspection Report No. 83-15  
dated June 30, 1983
11. Inspection Report No. 84-23  
dated February 25, 1985

cc: The Honorable Nancy Landon Kassebaum  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510  
Attn: Greg Musil

\*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES

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\*TAlexion

\*Bongblood

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