



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

May 9, 1985

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PR  
Kansas Gas*

The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed to fine Kansas Gas & Electric Company \$25,000 for alleged noncompliance with NRC requirements at the company's Work Creek nuclear power generating facility.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today,  
May 9, 1985.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*  
Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:  
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart  
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan  
Sen. Dole  
Sen. Kassebaum  
Rep. Whittaker

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# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 85-68  
TEL. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1985)

## NRC STAFF CITES KANSAS GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY; PROPOSES \$25,000 FINE

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION STAFF HAS PROPOSED TO FINE KANSAS GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY \$25,000 FOR ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NRC REQUIREMENTS AT THE COMPANY'S WOLF CREEK NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITY NEAR BURLINGTON, KANSAS.

THE NRC INFORMED THE COMPANY THAT ITS INSPECTORS CONDUCTED TWO INSPECTIONS OF THE COMPANY'S PREOPERATIONAL TEST PROGRAM--FROM OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 20, 1984, AND FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1985. AS A RESULT OF THESE INSPECTIONS, THE NRC STAFF CITED KG&E FOR SEVERAL ALLEGED VIOLATIONS FOR IMPROPERLY CONDUCTING ITS PREOPERATIONAL TEST PROGRAM.

NRC INSPECTORS HAD IDENTIFIED SIMILAR WEAKNESSES DURING PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS, INCLUDING FAILURES TO PROPERLY EXECUTE PROCEDURES AND TO PROPERLY DOCUMENT TEST DISCREPANCIES. DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS, A NUMBER OF COMPLETED PREOPERATIONAL TESTS HAD TO BE VOIDED BY KG&E DURING THE FINAL REVIEW STAGES.

KG&E'S RESPONSES TO MEMBERS OF THE NRC STAFF DURING A MEETING IN DECEMBER, 1984, AND SUBSEQUENT REMEDIAL ACTIONS CORRECTED THE DEFICIENCIES PRIOR TO NRC'S ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE TO WOLF CREEK IN MARCH 1985.

IN A LETTER TO KG&E, ROBERT D. MARTIN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NRC'S REGION IV OFFICE IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS, SAID THESE VIOLATIONS AND THE CONCERNS IDENTIFIED EARLIER INDICATED THAT INSUFFICIENT MANAGEMENT ATTENTION HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO IDENTIFYING AND CORRECTING THE ROOT CAUSES OF THESE PROBLEMS, RESULTING IN A BREAKDOWN IN THE EXECUTION OF THE PREOPERATIONAL TEST PROGRAM.

MR. MARTIN EXPLAINED IN HIS LETTER THAT A CIVIL PENALTY OF \$50,000 COULD HAVE BEEN PROPOSED FOR THESE VIOLATIONS, BUT KG&E'S PROMPT AND EXTENSIVE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS WARRANTED THE REDUCTION TO \$25,000.

KG&E MUST RESPOND TO THE NOTICE OF VIOLATION WITHIN 30 DAYS.

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