



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

September 21, 2012

Matthew W. Sunseri, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

SUBJECT: FOLLOWUP ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR WOLF CREEK GENERATING
STATION

Dear Mr. Sunseri:

As a result of our continuous review of plant performance, which was completed on September 21, 2012, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) updated its assessment of Wolf Creek Generating Station. The NRC's evaluation consisted of a review of performance indicators and inspection results. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment and plans for a future inspection at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supersede, the mid-cycle assessment letter issued on September 4, 2012.

On September 21, 2012, the NRC forwarded a letter (NRC Inspection Report 05000482/2012010) that stated the final significance determination of a Yellow finding in the Initiating Events Cornerstone. The finding involved your staff's failure to provide adequate oversight of contractors while they performed work that could affect safety-related equipment in April 2011. As a result, your staff failed to identify that electrical maintenance contractors had not installed insulating sleeves on wires that affected the differential current protection circuit, contrary to work order instructions. This allowed an electrical short to prevent transfer of power to the startup transformer during a plant trip on January 13, 2012, resulting in a prolonged loss of offsite power. Based on this finding, the NRC determined the performance at Wolf Creek Generating Station to be in the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix beginning on August 6, 2012, the date the preliminary finding was first discussed with your staff at the exit meeting for Inspection Report 05000482/2012009. The NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the performance issues using Inspection Procedure 95002, "Supplemental Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." The NRC will plan this inspection activity when you provide written notification of your readiness for the inspection.

The supplemental inspection will provide assurance that the root and contributing causes of risk-significant performance issues are understood, the extent of condition and the extent of cause of risk-significant performance issues are identified, determine if safety culture components caused or significantly contributed to the risk-significant performance issues, and

M. Sunseri

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that corrective actions for risk-significant performance issues are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes and prevent recurrence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the Public without redaction.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

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