

March 30, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Peter C. Wen, Project Manager
Generic Issues, Environmental Financial
and Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: David C. Trimble, Chief */RA/*
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Section
Operator Licensing, Human Performance
and Plant Support Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE (NEI)
OPERATOR LICENSING MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

On February 17 - 18, 2000, the NRC staff participated in a workshop sponsored by NEI in Orlando, Florida, to review issues related to the implementation of Revision 8 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The workshop, which was open to the public, was attended by the NRR Associate Director for Inspection and Programs, the Director of the Division of Inspection Program Management, the Chief of the Operator Licensing, Human Performance, and Plant Support Branch, the Chief of the Operator Licensing and Human Performance Section, the Operator Licensing Branch Chiefs from all four Regional Offices, and selected members of the headquarters and regional operator licensing staffs. Industry attendees included the Director of Operations, NEI, and a key member of his staff, the Director of the Accreditation Division and the Manager of the Accreditation and Training Department at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), and facility management, operations, and training representatives from the majority of the nuclear facilities nationwide. A partial list of attendees is included in the attached proceedings for the workshop, and a complete list is provided as a separate attachment.

Many of the issues were previously discussed during a series of operator licensing workshops conducted by each of the NRC Regional Offices since Revision 8 of NUREG-1021 was issued in April 1999. The topics included reviews of the lessons learned by licensees that have previously prepared their licensing examinations, a review of the pros and cons associated with facility licensees preparing the examinations, changes in the INPO eligibility guidelines for operator license applicants, and an update on the status of the national examination question bank being developed by INPO. The NRC provided updates on various issues including the rulemaking plan that will allow facility licensees to use their simulators to conduct reactivity manipulations for operator license eligibility and a proposed supplementary revision to NUREG-1021 that will amend the restrictions on repeating written questions from prior examinations and quizzes and clarify the guidance regarding the documentation of examination quality issues in the NRC examination reports. A complete list of topics discussed during the meeting and copies of all the associated handouts are included in the attached proceedings.

The staff believes that the workshop was beneficial because it provided an opportunity for the NRC to review the status of the operator licensing program with senior industry managers and to solicit their feedback regarding the implementation of the program. A list of questions raised during the workshop is attached; the staff plans to post its response to each question on the operator licensing web site (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/OL/OLhome.html>).

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-2942.

Attachments: As stated

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ORIGINATOR: F. GUENTHER
SECRETARY : R. CARMON
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