

July 25, 2002

Mr. John L. Skolds, President  
Exelon Nuclear  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION  
NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 50-237/02-301(DRS);  
50-249/02-301(DRS)

Dear Mr. Skolds:

On June 14, 2002, NRC examiners completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Dresden Nuclear Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of the examination.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the weeks of June 3 and June 10, 2002. A written examination was administered by Dresden Station training personnel on June 14, 2002. Six Reactor Operator (RO) and eight Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on July 22, 2002. Eleven applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses. One SRO applicant will be issued a Senior Reactor Operator license restricted to Reactor Operator responsibilities. Upon your certification, in writing to the NRC, that the individual has completed six months of responsible power plant experience you may request we remove the restriction. One Senior Reactor Operator applicant and two Reactor Operator applicants failed the operating examination and were issued proposed license denial letters.

The NRC staff considered three operating examination failures out of a total of fourteen applicants examined to be an unusually high failure rate. Your staff should evaluate this unusually high failure rate and incorporate any lessons learned into your initial licensed operator training program.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Roy Caniano Acting For/***

John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-237; 50-249  
License Nos. DPR-19; DPR-25

Enclosures: 1. Operator Licensing Examination  
Report 50-237/02-301(DRS); 50-249/02-301(DRS)  
2. Post Examination Comments and Resolution  
3. Simulation Facility Report  
4. Written Examinations and Answer  
Keys (RO & SRO)

cc w/encls 1, 2 & 3: Site Vice President - Dresden Nuclear Power Station  
Dresden Nuclear Power Station Plant Manager  
Regulatory Assurance Manager - Dresden  
Chief Operating Officer  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services  
Senior Vice President - Mid-West Regional  
Operating Group  
Vice President - Mid-West Operations Support  
Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Director Licensing - Mid-West Regional  
Operating Group  
Manager Licensing - Dresden and Quad Cities  
Senior Counsel, Nuclear, Mid-West Regional  
Operating Group  
Document Control Desk - Licensing  
M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General  
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

cc w/encls 1, 2, 3 & 4: F. Cerovac, Training Manager

J. Skolds

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely,

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John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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Site Vice President - Dresden Nuclear Power Station  
 Dresden Nuclear Power Station Plant Manager  
 Regulatory Assurance Manager - Dresden  
 Chief Operating Officer  
 Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services  
 Senior Vice President - Mid-West Regional  
 Operating Group  
 Vice President - Mid-West Operations Support  
 Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
 Director Licensing - Mid-West Regional  
 Operating Group  
 Manager Licensing - Dresden and Quad Cities  
 Senior Counsel, Nuclear, Mid-West Regional  
 Operating Group  
 Document Control Desk - Licensing  
 M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General  
 Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety  
 State Liaison Officer  
 Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

cc w/encls 1, 2, 3 & 4: F. Cerovac, Training Manager

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket Nos: 50-237; 50-249  
License Nos.: DPR-19; DPR-25

Report No: 50-237/02-301(DRS); 50-249/02-301(DRS)

Licensee: Exelon Generation Company, LLC

Facility: Dresden Nuclear Power Station

Location: 6500 North Dresden Road  
Morris, IL 60450

Dates: June 3 through June 14, 2002

Examiners D. McNeil, Chief Examiner  
P. Young, Examiner  
R. Walton, Examiner

Approved by: John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000237-02-301(DRS), 05000249-02-301(DRS), on 06/03-06/14/02, Exelon Generation Company, LLC, Dresden Nuclear Power Station. Initial License Examination Report.

The announced operator licensing initial examination was conducted by regional NRC examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1.

### Examination Summary:

- Eleven applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses. One SRO applicant will be issued a Senior Reactor Operator license restricting the individual to Reactor Operator duties. Upon completion of all requirements to obtain a Senior Reactor Operator's license, the license restriction can be removed (Section 4OA5.1).
- One Senior Reactor Operator applicant and two Reactor Operator applicants failed the operating examination and were issued proposed license denial letters (Section OA5.1).

## Report Details

### **4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)**

#### 4OA5 Other

##### .1 Initial Licensing Examinations

###### a. Examination Scope

The NRC examiners conducted an announced operator licensing initial examination during the weeks of June 3 and June 10, 2002. The facility's training staff used the guidance established in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, to prepare the examination outline and to develop the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners administered the operating test during the weeks of June 3 and June 10, 2002. Dresden Station training staff members administered the written examination on June 14, 2002. Six Reactor Operator and eight Senior Reactor Operator applicants were examined.

###### b. Findings

###### Written Examination

The licensee developed the written examination. During their initial review, the examiners determined that the examination, as submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. During examination validation the week of April 29, 2002, examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were incorporated according to the guidance contained in NUREG-1021.

During grading of the written examination, NRC examiners determined that one question on the SRO examination had two correct answers. The licensee agreed with the modification and had no post examination comments on the written examination. The answer key was modified to accept answers c. and d. as correct answers. See Enclosure 2, "Post Examination Comments and Resolution," for details of this change.

###### Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Examination changes, agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee, were made according to NUREG-1021.

###### Examination Results

Six Reactor Operator applicants and eight Senior Reactor Operator applicants were administered written examinations and operating tests for initial operator licensing. Eleven applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses. One Senior Reactor Operator applicant and two Reactor

Operator applicants failed the operating examination and were issued proposed license denial letters. They will have approximately twenty days to appeal the proposed denial.

## .2 Examination Security

### a. Scope

The examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination preparation and administration.

### b. Findings

The following findings document three violations of NRC examination security requirements:

- While validating the proposed examination, the licensee identified that a modem connected to the simulation facility could have allowed individuals to access simulator software data. The licensee conservatively replaced six job performance measures and two scenarios after discovering this potential examination compromise.
- As a result of a licensee in-house review, the licensee identified operators who had signed the examination security agreement were observing applicants performing training-related tasks. The operators were then signing the applicant's qualification journals signifying completion of the tasks. This could have been classified as training and not in accordance with the examination security agreement. To address this concern, the licensee replaced some questions on the written examination and counseled the operators concerning allowed activities after signing an examination security agreement.
- During performance of a scenario, the examiners identified a failure to erase place-keeping marks in one procedure between dynamic simulator scenarios. This could give an applicant an unfair advantage while completing the dynamic simulator scenario. In this particular case, there was no affect on the outcome of the operating test.

These violations were considered minor in nature; therefore, they would not be subject to enforcement action. These findings have been entered into the licensee's corrective action program.

## 40A6 Meetings

### Exit Meeting

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on June 14, 2002, to Mr. Bowman and other members of the Operations and Training Department staff. On June 22, 2002, the chief examiner presented additional issues to Mr. Hovey and other members of licensee management. The licensee acknowledged the observations and findings presented.



## PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

### Licensee

R. Hovey, Vice President, Dresden Station  
D. Bost, Plant Manager  
F. Cerovac, Training Director  
J. Hansen, Manger, Reg. Assurance  
J. Henry, Operations Manager  
M. Otten, Examination Developer  
S. Russell, MWROG Exam Development  
R. Rybak, Licensing Engineer  
C. Symonds, Operations Training Manager  
J. Sypek, Manager, Nuclear Oversight

### NRC

D. Smith, Senior Resident Inspector, Dresden

## ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED AND DISCUSSED

### Opened

None

### Closed

None

### Discussed

None

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADAMS	Agency-Wide Document Access and Management System
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records
RO	Reactor Operator
SRO	Senior Reactor Operator

## Post Examination Comments and Resolution

Question #50 on the Senior Reactor Operator examination was reviewed:

QUESTION: 050 (1.00)

Unit 3 is a rated conditions when a transient occurs resulting in the following:

- Total Steam flow is 9.8 Mlbm/hr
- Total Feed flow is 8.7 Mlbm/hr
- Reactor Water Level is currently at +27 inches.

What is the expected trend for Reactor Water Level and what procedure will be required to be entered if operator actions to correct the problem are UNSUCCESSFUL?

	LEVEL	PROCEDURE
a.	Trending up	DEOP 100, RPV Control
b.	Trending up	DOA 600-1, Transient Level Control
c.	Trending down	DEOP 100, RPV Control
d.	Trending down	DOA 600-1, Transient Level Control

The as-written question assumed that DOA 600-1 has already been enter and executed and failed to correct the situation. An applicant could assume that this has NOT been done yet. If the applicant makes that assumption, choice "d." becomes a correct answer.

Resolution: NRC examiners and licensee training personnel agreed that this would result in two correct answers for this question. The SRO answer key was modified to accept answers c. and d. as correct answers for this question.

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Dresden Station  
Facility Docket No.: 50-237; 50-249  
Operating Tests Administered: June 3 - 13, 2002

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
SBGT	When operating the control switch for the SBGT system, it was found there is a mid-position for the control switch not sampled by the simulator's computer. This causes the simulator to energize alarms associated with the switch when it passes slowly through the non-sampled position. A simulator discrepancy report had already been issued concerning this item.

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS AND ANSWER KEYS (RO/SRO)

RO Initial Examination ADAMS Accession # ML022060534  
SRO Initial Examination ADAMS Accession # ML022060555