



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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August 27, 2007

R. T. Ridenoure
Vice President
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 550
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION - NRC EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000285/2007301

Dear Mr. Ridenoure:

On August 9, 2007, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial licensed operator examination at your Fort Calhoun Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on August 17, 2007, with members of your staff.

The examination included the evaluation of three applicants for instant senior operator licenses, two applicants for upgrade senior operator licenses, and four applicants for operator licenses. The written and operating examinations were developed using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9. The license examiners determined that all nine applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings of significance were identified during this examination.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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).

Sincerely,

/RA/ DAPowers for

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-285
License: DPR-40

Omaha Public Power District

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Enclosure:
NRC Examination Report
05000285/2007301

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EXAMINATION REPORT
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Dockets: 50-285
Licenses: DPR-40
Report : 05000285/2007301
Licensee: Omaha Public Power District
Facility: Fort Calhoun Station
Location: Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 399, Highway 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska
Dates: August 6-10, 2007
Inspectors: S. Garchow, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch
K. Clayton, Senior Operations Engineer
B. Larson, Operations Engineer
Approved By: Tony Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000285/2007301; August 6-9, 2007; Fort Calhoun Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of three applicants for an instant senior operator license, two applicants for an upgrade senior operator license, and four applicants for an operator license at the Fort Calhoun Station. The facility licensee developed the written and operating examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9. The written examination was administered by the facility licensee on August 3, 2007. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on August 6-9, 2007. The license examiners determined all the applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

No findings of significance were identified.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other Activities (Initial Operator License Examination)

1. License Applications

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed the applications submitted by the licensee for each of the license applicants. The applications were submitted on NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualification Statement," and NRC Form 396, "Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee." The examiners also audited three of the nine license applications to confirm accurate documentation of the subject applicant's qualifications. This satisfies the 10 percent audit requirement that focuses on the applicant's experience and on-the-job training, including control manipulations that provided significant reactivity changes. All control manipulations were performed in the plant.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

2. Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On August 3, 2007, the facility licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all nine applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on August 10, 2007.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to all nine applicants on August 6-9, 2007. The three applicants seeking an instant senior operator license participated in three dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 10 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks. The applicants for an upgrade senior operator license participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of five system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks. The applicants seeking an operator license participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, 11 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of four administrative tasks. All the applicants passed all parts of the examinations.

b. Findings

There were no findings of significance identified.

For the written examinations, the average score on the operator exam was 86.6 percent and ranged from 84.0 to 90.6 percent. The overall senior reactor operator applicant's average score was 88.5 percent and ranged from 86.0 to 91.0 percent. The average score on the senior operator only portion of the exam was 83.2 percent and ranged from 76.0 to 92.0 percent.

Chapter ES-403 and Form ES-403-1 of NUREG 1021 require the licensee to analyze the validity of any written examination questions that were missed by half or more of the applicants. The licensee conducted this performance analysis and submitted the analysis to the chief examiner on August 10, 2007.

3. Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Examination Scope

The licensee developed the written and operating examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 9. All licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination preparation and validation were on a security agreement. The facility licensee submitted the integrated examination outlines on May 23, 2007. The chief examiner reviewed the outlines against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 9, and provided comments to the licensee on June 7, 2007. The facility licensee submitted the draft examination package on June 27, 2007. The chief examiner reviewed the draft examination package against the requirements of NUREG-1021, and provided comments to the licensee on July 3, 2007. The NRC conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided further comments during the week of July 16, 2007. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution on July 25, 2007.

b. Findings

Examiners approved the initial examination outline with minor comments and advised the licensee to proceed with the written and operating examination development.

The chief examiner considered the written examination to be adequate and noted that the number of unacceptable questions in the overall submittal was within the acceptable quality range of less than or equal to 20 percent expected by the NRC, with four questions requiring significant modification or replacement (four percent). The senior reactor operator portion of the exam also met the 20 percent threshold because one question out of 25 required replacement or significant modification (four percent). The reactor operator portion of the exam required replacement or modification for three of the 75 reactor operator questions (four percent). The questions on the overall examination requiring replacement or significant modification did not have a common theme. The exam comments were discussed with facility licensee representatives.

The chief examiner determined that the operating examinations initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

No findings of significance were identified.

4. Simulation Facility Performance

a. Examination Scope

The examiners observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

5. Examination Security

a. Examination Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security for examination development during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel during the onsite preparation week.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

40A6 Meetings, Including Exit

On August 17, 2007, the examination results were provided to the facility licensee. The examiners confirmed that proprietary information was not provided or examined during the examination process.

40A7 Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

David Weaver, Supervisor, Operations and Technical Training
Jerry Koske, Operations Training Specialist
Tony Christensen, Operations Training Specialist

NRC Personnel

L. Willoughby, Resident Inspector