

May 29, 2008

Mr. Richard L. Anderson
Vice-President
Duane Arnold Energy Center
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER
NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 05000331/2008301(DRS)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On April 22, 2008, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiner completed an initial operator licensing re-take examination at your Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) for an individual that failed the initial license examination operating test administered in December 2007. The enclosed report documents the results of the examination. An exit meeting for the examination was presented on April 22, 2008, to Mr. J. Morris, Duane Arnold Energy Center Training Manager, and other members of your staff. There were no post-examination comments provided by the station's training department.

The NRC examiner administered the initial license re-take examination on April 21 and April 22, 2008. The re-take examination required the administration of two dynamic simulator scenarios to the applicant. The two scenarios were administered by an NRC examiner and the results of the examination were finalized on May 7, 2008. The applicant passed the operating test dynamic scenarios, and because the written examination and Job Performance Measures portion of the operating test were waived, the applicant was issued a senior operator license. The written examination and the Job Performance Measures portion of the operating test were waived for the applicant because of the applicant's satisfactory performance on those portions of the examination administered in December 2007.

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), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

R. Anderson

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-331
License No. DPR-49

Enclosures: 1. Operator Licensing Examination
Report 05000331/2008301(DRS)
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information
2. Simulation Facility Report

cc w/encl 1: M. Nazar, Senior Vice President and Chief
Operating Officer
J. Stall, Senior Vice President, Nuclear and Chief
Nuclear Officer
R. Helfrich, Senior Attorney
M. Ross, Managing Attorney
R. Kundalkar, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
J. Bjorseth, Site Director
D. Curtland, Plant Manager
S. Catron, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Chief Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section,
Dept. Of Homeland Security
M. Rasmusson, State Liaison Officer

cc w/encls 1 & 2: J. Morris, Training Manager, Duane Arnold Energy Center

R. Anderson

-2-

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 - R. Helfrich, Senior Attorney
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 - R. Kundalkar, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
 - J. Bjorseth, Site Director
 - D. Curtland, Plant Manager
 - S. Catron, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Chief Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section,
Dept. Of Homeland Security
 - M. Rasmusson, State Liaison Officer

cc w/encls 1 & 2: J. Morris, Training Manager, Duane Arnold Energy Center

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Letter to Richard L. Anderson from Hironori Peterson dated May 29, 2008.

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NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 05000331/2008301(DRS)

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 50-331
License No: DPR-49

Report No: 05000331/2008301(DRS)

Licensee: FPL Energy Duane Arnold, LLC

Facility: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Location: Palo, Iowa

Dates: April 21, 2008, through April 22, 2008

Examiner: D. McNeil, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000331/2008301(DRS); 04/21/2008 - 04/22/2008; FPL Energy Duane Arnold, LLC, Duane Arnold Energy Center. Initial License Examination Report.

The announced initial operator licensing re-take examination was conducted by a regional Nuclear Regulatory Commission examiner in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1.

Examination Summary:

- One applicant was administered a re-take operating test (Dynamic Simulator Scenario portion only). The applicant passed the re-take examination and was issued a senior operator license. The Job Performance Measures portion of the re-take examination and the written examination were waived because of the applicant's satisfactory performance on the examination administered in December 2007. (Section 4OA5.1).

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other

.1 Initial Licensing Examinations

a. Examination Scope

Members of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) Training Department prepared the examination outline and developed the re-take dynamic simulator scenario operating test. The NRC examiner validated the proposed examination on April 21, and April 22, 2008. The scenarios were administered to the applicant immediately after validation was completed and approval by the Regional Operations Branch Chief by telephone was obtained. No changes were necessary to the scenarios as a result of the validation process. The station's examination developers and the NRC examiner used the guidance established in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1, to prepare, validate, revise, administer, and grade the examination.

b. Findings

Written Examination

The written examination was waived for the applicant because of his satisfactory performance on the written examination when it was administered in December 2007.

Operating Test

During the validation of the operating test at the Duane Arnold Energy Center, no changes were made to the proposed dynamic simulator scenarios. Less than 20 percent of the operating test was considered unsatisfactory for use and therefore, met the NRC's expectations for a submitted examination. The NRC examiner completed operating test grading on May 7, 2008. The Job Performance Measures (JPM) portion of the re-take operating test was waived due to the applicant's satisfactory performance on that portion of the examination administered in December 2007.

Examination Results

The applicant was administered a re-take operating test (Dynamic Simulator Scenario Portion) for a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) license. The applicant passed the administered examination and was issued a senior operator license.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination validation and administration to assure compliance with 10 CFR 55.49, "Integrity of Examinations and Tests." The examiners used the guidelines provided in NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," to determine acceptability of the licensee's examination security activities.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were observed in the area of examination security.

4OA6 Meetings

Exit Meeting

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on April 22, 2008, to Mr. J. Morris, DAEC Training Manager, and other members of the DAEC staff. The examiner asked the licensee whether any of the material used to develop or administer the examination should be considered proprietary. No proprietary or sensitive information was identified during the examination or debrief meetings.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

G. Rushworth, AOM
J. Morris, Training Manger
E. Murray, ILT Supervisor
K. Steimer, Assistant Operations Manager
C. Hansen, Examination Writer
J. Custer, Instructor
W. Render, Instructor

NRC

D. McNeil, Senior Operations Engineer

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

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

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Facility Docket No: 50-331

Operating Tests Administered: April 21 – 22, 2008

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
HPCI System	During examination validation with the HPCI system tagged out, it was noticed that valves down-stream of the HPCI isolation valve were still cycling open/closed on an initiation signal. This was apparently due to overriding the HPCI inlet isolation valve position indication to show closed. The override did not stop other valves from re-positioning as the HPCI system tried to initiate. Malfunction HP10A was used. A simulator action request was developed for this condition (dated 4/21/08) and referenced a simulator action request dated 9/17/2007 that had been written to generically cover this condition for all simulator systems.