



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

February 13, 2018

Mr. Joseph W. Shea
Vice President, Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, LP 3D-C
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 – NOTIFICATION OF
LICENSED OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000390/2018301,
05000391/2018301**

Dear Mr. Shea:

During a meeting on February 8, 2018, between Mr. Timothy Gabosch, Operations Training Examination Lead, and Mr. Mark Bates, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of August 6, 2018. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the weeks of September 4, 2018 and September 10, 2018. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of September 17, 2018.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test and written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 11 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outline by April 6, 2018. Mr. Mark Bates provided a written examination outline to your staff on November 3, 2017. The operating tests, written examination, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201, will be due by June 21, 2018. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline, examination, and test before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021, contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver and/or excusal requests (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. Bates to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB approval number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests call for at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualifications Statement—Licensee," or as directed by Mr. Bates when contacting him to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these mandatory information collections is estimated to average 2,250 hours per examination, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collections. You may submit comments on any aspect of the information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to FOIA, Privacy and Information Collections Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by electronic mail to infocollects.resource@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless the document requesting or requiring the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," of the agency's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.adams.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Gabosch has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Bates at (404) 997-4612, (mark.bates@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4551, (Internet E-mail: gerald.mccoy@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gerald J. McCoy, Chief
Operations Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-390, 50-391
License No. NPF-90, NPF-96

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