

February 3, 2000

Mr. John P. McElwain
Chief Nuclear Officer
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATION

Dear Mr. McElwain:

In a telephone conversation on February 2, 2000, between Mr. John Owens of your staff and Mr. Dell McNeil, of the Region III Operations Branch, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Clinton Power Station the weeks of June 5 and 12, 2000. In addition, the NRC will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of May 15, 2000.

The NRC will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 8 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the examinations the week of May 15, 2000.

To meet the above schedule, it was necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 in December 1999. Those materials were requested in an earlier telephone call and have already been submitted by your staff.

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 examination results are final.

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 license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) 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. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

J. McElwain

-2-

This letter contains information collections 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 3150-0101, which expires on September 30, 2000.

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

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Owens 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. Dell McNeil at (630) 829-9737, or me at 630-829-9733.

Sincerely,



David E. Hills, Chief
Operations Branch

Docket No. 50-461
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See Attached Distribution

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