



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

May 8, 2000

Gregory M. Rueger, Senior Vice President
and General Manager
Nuclear Power Generation Bus. Unit
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Nuclear Power Generation, B32
77 Beale Street, 32nd Floor
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-275/00-301; 50-323/00-301

Dear Mr. Rueger:

On April 9 to 19, 2000, the NRC completed initial license examinations at your Diablo Canyon Power Plant facility. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection. The results were discussed on April 19, 2000, with Mr. D. Oatley and other members of your staff.

The inspection included an evaluation of 15 applicants for operator licenses. We determined that all applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John L. Pellet, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-275; 50-323
License Nos.: DPR-80; DPR-82

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report No.
50-275/00-301; 50-323/00-301

cc w/enclosure:

Dr. Richard Ferguson
Energy Chair
Sierra Club California
1100 11th Street, Suite 311
Sacramento, California 95814

Nancy Culver
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
P.O. Box 164
Pismo Beach, California 93448

Chairman
San Luis Obispo County Board of
Supervisors
Room 370
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Truman Burns\Mr. Robert Kinoshian
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness, Rm. 4102
San Francisco, California 94102

Robert R. Wellington, Esq.
Legal Counsel
Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee
857 Cass Street, Suite D
Monterey, California 93940

Ed Bailey, Radiation Program Director
Radiologic Health Branch
State Department of Health Services
P.O. Box 942732 (MS 178)
Sacramento, CA 94327-7320

Steve Hsu
Radiologic Health Branch
State Department of Health Services
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, California 94327-7320

Christopher J. Warner, Esq.
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 7442
San Francisco, California 94120

David H. Oatley, Vice President
Diablo Canyon Operations and Plant Manager
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 3
Avila Beach, California 93424

Managing Editor
Telegram-Tribune
1321 Johnson Avenue
P.O. Box 112
San Luis Obispo, California 93406

Robert A. Laurie, Commissioner
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street (MS 31)
Sacramento, CA 95814

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ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket Nos.: 50-275; 50-323
License Nos.: DPR-80; DPR-82
Report No.: 50-275/00-301; 50-323/00-301
Licensee: Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Facility: Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2
Location: 7 1/2 miles NW of Avila Beach
Avila Beach, California
Dates: April 9 to 19, 2000
Inspectors: T. O. McKernon, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch
G. W. Johnston, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
D. S. Muller, Examiner, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Approved By: J. L. Pellet, Chief, Operations Branch

ATTACHMENT: Supplemental Information

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2
NRC Inspection Report No. 50-275/00-301; 50-323/00-301

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of 15 applicants for operator licenses at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant facility. The NRC examiners developed the written examinations and the facility developed the operating examinations. The examiners administered the initial license examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8. The facility reviewed and commented on the proposed examinations and the chief examiner incorporated those comments, as appropriate, into the final examinations. The written examinations were administered to all 15 applicants on April 10, 2000, by facility proctors in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on April 11 to 19, 2000.

- No findings.

Report Details

Summary of Plant Status

Units 1 and 2 were operating at full power for the duration of this inspection.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA4 Operator Knowledge and Performance

.1 Initial License Examination

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the written examination and utilized facility training and operations staff on the security agreement to validate the examination. On April 10, 2000, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examination to all 15 applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their evaluation and resultant comments for examination revision to the NRC on April 19, 2000. The examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to the 15 applicants on April 11 to 19, 2000. Each applicant participated in two to three dynamic simulator scenarios and received a control room and facilities walkthrough test, which consisted of 10 system tasks (5 for the reactor operators upgrading their licenses to senior operators). Additionally, each applicant was tested on 5 subjects in 4 administrative areas with a combination of administrative tasks and questions.

b. Observations and Findings

All 15 applicants passed the written examinations using the final answer key and incorporating comments resulting from licensee and NRC post-examination analysis. Scores ranged from 80 to 88 percent for the reactor operator applicants with an average of 83.3 percent. Scores for the senior operator applicants ranged from 81 to 91 percent with an average of 87.2 percent. Post-examination review by the licensee indicated no broad knowledge or performance weaknesses and the chief examiner's review supported this conclusion. The licensee's post-examination review identified two typographical errors in the senior reactor operator original answer key. The answer key listed for Question 51 choice 'D' as the correct answer when 'C' was the correct answer. The answer key also listed for Question 72 choice 'A' as the correct answer when 'B' was the correct answer. The proposed changes were accepted based on their technical merit and the senior operator examinations reevaluated after accounting for these changes. The licensee's post-examination comments are located in the ADAMS system under Accession No. ML003710014.

All applicants passed the operating examinations. The applicants demonstrated proficient 3-way communications, alarm response, and peer checking. Only minor observations of infrequent inattention-to-detail were noted. No significant findings were identified.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The NRC developed the initial licensing written examinations in accordance with guidance provided in NUREG-1021, Revision 8. The facility training staff developed the operating examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8.

.2.1 Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Inspection Scope

The facility licensee submitted the operating test portion initial examination outlines on December 16, 1999. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8. The NRC developed the written examination outlines and reviewed them against the licensee's audit examination outlines to verify no significant overlap existed. The facility licensee submitted the completed draft examination package on February 24, 2000. The chief examiner and a peer reviewer reviewed the formal submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8. The written examinations were reviewed with the licensee training staff during the preparatory week of March 20, 2000.

b. Observations and Findings

Region IV approved the initial examination outline with minor comments for enhancement, which were promptly resolved, and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development. The facility reviewed the draft examinations along with the NRC and identified few written examination questions requiring replacement. Other licensee and NRC comments were characterized as minor enhancements to the quality of the examinations and agreed upon by the licensee. The examination as submitted was satisfactory. The final as-administered written examinations are located in the ADAMS system under Accession Nos. ML003711785 and ML003711793. No significant findings were identified.

.3 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Inspection Scope

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

b. Observations and Findings

No findings were identified.

.4 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements.

b. Observations and Findings

No significant findings were identified.

40A5 Management Meetings

.1 Exit Meeting Summary

The examiners presented the inspection results to Mr. D. Oatley, Vice President and Plant Manager, and other members of the licensee management at the conclusion of the inspection on April 19, 2000. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

The licensee did not identify as proprietary any information or materials examined during the inspection.

ATTACHMENT

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

J. Becker, Operations Manager
T. Blake, Learning Services Director
D. Burns, Learning Services, Instructor
D. Christensen, Nuclear Safety Assurance and Licensing Engineer
B. Garrett, Operations Director
G. Goelzer, Operations Supervisor
R. Jett, Learning Services Leader
D. Oatley, Vice President and Plant Manager
L. Womack, Vice President, Power Generation and Nuclear Services

NRC

D. Proulx, Senior Resident Inspector
D. Acker, Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No.

ML003710014
ML003711785
ML003711793