



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

July 17, 2001

William A. Eaton, Vice President  
Operations - Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 756  
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, NRC EXAMINATION  
REPORT 50-416/01-301

Dear Mr. Eaton:

On June 8, 2001, the NRC completed an initial license examination at your Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on June 8, 2001, with you and other members of your staff.

The examinations included an evaluation of eight applicants for reactor operator licenses and one applicant for senior operator license. We determined that all applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dr. Dale A. Powers, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-416  
License: NPF-29

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Enclosure:  
NRC Inspection Report No.  
50-416/01-301

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**ENCLOSURE**

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV

Docket: 50-416

License: NPF-29

Report No.: 50-416/01-301

Licensee: Entergy Operations, Inc.

Facility: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

Location: Waterloo Road  
Port Gibson, Mississippi

Dates: June 4-8, 2001

Chief Examiner: Michael E. Murphy, Senior Operations Engineer

Examiners: Thomas F. Stetka, Senior Operations Engineer  
Alfred A. Sanchez, Operations Engineer

Approved By: Dr. Dale A. Powers  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000416/01-301, on 06/04-08/01, Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, operator licensing examination.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of eight applicants for reactor operator licenses and one applicant for senior operator license at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The licensee developed the written and operating examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on June 4-8, 2001. The written examinations were administered to all applicants on June 1, 2001, by licensee proctors in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner.

### **Cornerstone: Other**

No findings of significance were identified.

## Report Details

### Summary of Plant Status

The plant operated at essentially full power for the duration of this inspection.

#### 4. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

##### 4OA4 Operator Knowledge and Performance

###### .1 Initial License Examination

###### a. Examination Scope

The licensee's staff developed the written and operating examinations using facility training and operations staff specified on the security agreement to prepare and validate the examinations. On June 1, 2001, the licensee's staff proctored the administration of the written examination to all nine applicants. The licensee's staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their evaluation to the NRC examination team on June 8, 2001.

The examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to the nine applicants on June 4-8, 2001. Each reactor and senior operator applicant participated in 2 dynamic simulator scenarios and received a control room and facilities walkthrough test, which consisted of 10 system tasks. Additionally, the examination team tested each applicant with administrative tasks on 5 subjects in 4 administrative areas.

###### b. Findings

All applicants passed the written examinations. The average score for the reactor operator applicants was 87.6 percent. The senior operator applicant scored 94 percent.

The licensee had no post-examination comments on the written examination. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the Attachment.

During the post-examination review, the licensee identified 10 written examination questions that were missed by 50 percent or more of the applicants responding to the question. The licensee determined that the questions were valid and there were no generic weaknesses of the initial license training program based on review of these 10 questions. The chief examiner reviewed the 10 written examination questions that were missed by 50 percent or more of the applicants and found the licensee's determination appropriate, based on the specific questions, applicant responses, and other items testing similar systems or areas.

All applicants passed the operating examinations. The applicants demonstrated adequate 3-way communications, alarm response, and peer checking.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The facility training staff developed the written and operating examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1.

.2.1 Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee submitted the written and operating examination outlines on February 12, 2001. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee on February 16, 2001. The facility licensee submitted the completed draft examination package on April 6, 2001. The chief examiner and a peer reviewer reviewed the draft submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1. The chief examiner conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided comments on the written and operating examinations during the week of May 14, 2001.

b. Findings

Region IV approved the initial examination outline with minor comments for enhancement and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

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

.3 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Examination Scope

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

b. Findings

The simulator performed appropriately during validation and the examination. No findings of significance were identified.

.4 Examination Security

a. Examination Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with 10 CFR 55.49 requirements.



b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

40A5 Management Meetings

.1 Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented the inspection results to Mr. William Eaton, Vice President, Operations, and other members of the licensee management at the conclusion of the examination on June 8, 2001. The licensee's management acknowledged the findings presented.

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

**ATTACHMENT**

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

R. Barnes, Manager, Training  
C. Bottemiller, Manager, Licensing  
R. Carroll, Assistant Manager, Operations  
W. Eaton, Vice President, Operations  
D. Fearn, Supervisor, Simulator Support  
S. Humphries, Operations Coordinator  
T. McIntyre, Supervisor, Operations Training  
J. Miller, Supervisor, Operations Training  
S. Reeves, Senior Operations Instructor  
G. Sparks, Manager, Operations

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No.:

ML 011870249

GG-Init Exam-June 2001-Final RO/SRO Written Reference Examination