



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

July 26, 2001

S. K. Gambhir, Division Manager
Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 399
Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0399

**SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION - NRC INITIAL EXAMINATION
REPORT 50-285/01-301**

Dear Mr. Gambhir:

On June 28, 2001, the NRC completed an initial examination at your Fort Calhoun Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on June 28, 2001, with you and other members of your staff.

The examination included the evaluation of four applicants for reactor operator licenses and four applicants for senior operator licenses. We determined that all of the senior operator and three of the four reactor operator applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

In your letter LIC-01-0065 of July 5, 2001, from Mr. S. K. Gambhir to Mr. R. Lantz, you recommended grading changes to seven examination questions. Five of the questions related to the reactor operator examination, and, separately, five of the questions related to the senior operator examination. You also indicated that an evaluation would be conducted to determine if changes to the licensed operator initial training program are required as a result of student performance on the examination. In that evaluation you should also address why post-administration changes to the written examination grading were required, and what actions will be taken to improve the development of future examinations. You do not need to inform us of the results of that evaluation, however, the results may be reviewed during a future NRC inspection.

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: 50-285
License: DPR-40

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-285/01-301

cc w/enclosure:
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ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket: 50-285

License: DPR-40

Report No.: 50-285/01-301

Licensee: Omaha Public Power District

Facility: Fort Calhoun Station

Location: Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.,
P.O. Box 399, Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska

Dates: June 22 - 28, 2001

Inspectors: Ryan E. Lantz, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch
Paul C. Gage, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
Tom O. McKernon, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch

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

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000285/01-301, on 06/25-28/2001, Omaha Public Power District; Fort Calhoun Station, Initial Examination of Applicants for Operator Licenses.

An NRC examination team evaluated the competency of four applicants for reactor operator licenses, and four applicants for senior operator licenses at the Fort Calhoun Station. The facility developed the written and operating examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8. The written examinations were administered to all applicants on June 22, 2001, by facility proctors in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on June 25-28, 2001. All applicants passed all portions of the operating test. All of the senior operators and three of the reactor operators passed the written examination. The appropriate licenses were issued.

Examination Details

4. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

4OA4 Initial License Examinations

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On June 22, 2001, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all eight applicants. The licensee's staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC examination team on July 5, 2001.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to the eight applicants on June 25-28, 2001. The four applicants for operator licenses participated in 2 dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 10 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of 4 administrative tasks and 2 administrative questions. The three applicants for instant senior operator license participated in 3 dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 10 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of 5 administrative tasks. The applicant that was upgrading from a reactor operator license to a senior operator license participated in 2 dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 5 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of 5 administrative tasks.

b. Findings

All applicants passed the operating test, and all of the senior operators and three of the reactor operators passed the written examination. The appropriate licenses were issued.

During the operating test, the applicants demonstrated good 3-way communications, alarm response, procedure usage, and peer checking. No generic training or operating weaknesses were noted.

The licensee conducted a performance analysis for the written examinations with emphasis on questions missed by half or more of the applicable applicants. The licensee concluded that there were no commonalities in the knowledge deficiencies. The licensee recommended changes to the grading of seven examination questions; three were common to both examinations, and two were unique to each the reactor operator and senior operator examinations. The licensee then graded the written examinations and forwarded the results to the chief examiner. The chief examiner reviewed the licensee's grading, justification for examination answer key changes, and

independently graded the written examinations. The average score was 81.8 percent and individual scores ranged from 77.8 to 86.7 percent. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the attachment. The changes to the written examination grading and NRC resolution of the recommended changes can be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the attachment.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The licensee developed the written and operating examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, using the facility training and operations staff specified on the security agreement.

.2.1 Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee submitted the operating examination outlines on March 14, 2001. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the criteria of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, and provided comments to the licensee. The facility licensee submitted the draft operating examination package on April 30, 2001. The chief examiner reviewed the draft submittal against the criteria of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, and provided comments to the licensee on the operating examinations on May 15, 2001. The chief examiner conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided further comments during the period of June 4-6, 2001. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution on June 18, 2001.

b. Findings

Region IV management approved the initial examination outline and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

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

No findings of significance were identified.

.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

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 agreement with NUREG-1021 criteria. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

40A5 Management Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented general observations and evaluations of operator performance to Mr. Sudesh Gambhir, Nuclear Operations Division Manager, at the conclusion of the examination on June 28, 2001. The licensee's management acknowledged the observations presented.

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

ATTACHMENT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

R. Clemens, Plant Manager
D. Dryden, Licensing
M. Frans, Manager, Nuclear Licensing
W. Goodell, Manager, Shift Operations
J. Koske, Training Consultant
S. Gambhir, Division Manager, Nuclear Operations
M. Smith, Class Coordinator, Operations Training
D. Weaver, Supervisor, Operations Training
R. Westcott, Manager, Training

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No.:

ML 012010432	Final Reference Examination
ML 012000220	Facility Post Administration Review Comments
ML 012010433	NRC Resolution of Post Administration Review Comments