

October 1, 2001

Mr. L. W. Myers
Senior Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Beaver Valley Power Station
Post Office Box 4
Shippingport, Pennsylvania 15077

SUBJECT: BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION, UNIT 1 REACTOR OPERATOR AND
SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS REPORT NO.
50-334/01-302

Dear Mr. Myers:

This report transmits the results of the reactor operator (RO) and senior reactor operator (SRO) licensing examinations conducted by the NRC during the period of August 6-10, 2001. These examinations addressed areas important to public health and safety and were developed and administered using the guidelines of the "Examination Standards for Power Reactors" (NUREG-1021, Revision 8).

Based on the results of the examinations, two of five RO applicants and one of one SRO applicants passed all portions of the examinations. Examination results indicated that a relatively high percentage of the RO applicants were not well prepared for the written exam. We understand your staff is identifying and reviewing the causes of the problem. We also understand that the causes were not related to examination validity and reliability. This is substantiated by the small number and nature of facility comments on the examination as reflected in your post examination comments to us on August 17, 2001. The final exam results were given during a telephone call on September 13, 2001.

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). These records include the final examination (RO Written-Accession No. ML012710065; SRO Written-Accession No. ML012710138; Operating Section A-Accession No. ML012710300; Operating Section B- Accession No. ML012710356; Operating Section C- Accession No. ML012710399; Facility Comments on the Written Exams, Accession No. ML012710230; NRC Resolution of Facility Comments, Accession No. ML012710251). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Mr. L. W. Myers

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Should you have any questions regarding this examination, please contact me at (610) 337-5183, or by E-mail at RJC@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-334
License No. DPR-66

Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 50-334/01-302

cc w/encl:

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Mr. L. W. Myers

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No: 50-334

Report No: 50-334/01-302

License No.: DPR-66

Licensee: FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company

Facility: Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 1

Location: Shippingport, PA

Dates: August 6-9, 2001 (Operating Test Administration)
August 10, 2001 (Written Exam Administration)
August 13-17, 2001 (Grading)

Examiners: T. Fish, Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner)
J. D'Antonio, Operations Engineer
P. Bissett, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000334/2001302; August 6-10, 2001; Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 1; Initial Operator Licensing Examinations. Two of five RO applicants passed the examination. One of one SRO instant applicants passed the examination - overall, three of the six license applicants passed the examination.

The examinations were conducted by three NRC region-based examiners. There were no inspection findings associated with the examination.

Report Details

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Cornerstone: Mitigating Systems - Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) Initial License Examinations

a. Scope of Review

The NRC examination team reviewed the written and operating initial examinations submitted by the Beaver Valley, Unit 1 training staff to verify or ensure, as applicable, the following:

- The examinations were prepared and developed in accordance with the guidelines of Revision 8 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors" and they met the overall quality goals (range of acceptability) of these standards. The review was conducted both in the Region I office and at the Beaver Valley training facility. Final resolution of comments and incorporation of test revisions was conducted during and following the onsite preparation week.
- Simulation facility operation was proper.
- The facility licensee completed a test item analysis on the written exams for feedback into the systems approach to training program.
- Examination security requirements were met.
- The facility licensee conducted a root cause analysis to determine the cause of the poor performance on the RO written exams.
- The NRC examiners administered the operating portion of the exam to all applicants August 6-9, 2001. The written examinations were administered by the Beaver Valley training staff on August 10, 2001. Licensee initial identification and resolution of issues involving Unit 2 qualification manual completion caused a delay in administration of the NRC licensing exams from April 2001. The schedule change was at the licensee's request per letter of April 12, 2001.

b. Findings

Grading and Results

Three of the six applicants for the NRC operator (RO/SRO) licenses passed all portions of the examinations. Regarding the three successful applicants, two were issued licenses; the third applicant will be issued a license upon completion of on-shift time and an equipment operator qualification manual. Three RO applicants failed the written exam.

The facility submitted four post-examination comments on the written exams. NRC agreed with the comments and revised the answer keys for the written exams accordingly.

Examination Preparation and Quality

The examinations met the quality goals of NUREG-1021, Revision 8. Also, examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and facility staff were made according to NUREG-1021, Revision 8.

Examination Administration and Performance

No findings of significance were identified.

Other - Exam Delays Due To Qualification Manual Issues

In early March, 2001, the Operations Training Manager informed the Region I Operational Safety Branch Chief of irregularities related to the qualification manual for a Unit 2 applicant. The nature of the irregularities involved about 35 trainee tasks that were improperly completed. Several days later, facility investigators substantiated the Training Manager's finding. Follow-up review by a Region I examiner also confirmed the problem. Subsequently, utility training staff reviewed all qualification manuals for all applicants (Unit 1 and Unit 2). The licensee's comprehensive review did not identify other manuals with irregularities similar to the Unit 2 applicant's. Facility staff did note, however, minor discrepancies in several other applicants' manuals such as illegible signatures and dates missing for some sign-offs. Facility staff and applicants corrected these discrepancies. Subsequently, Region I examiners sampled five qualification manuals (the sample included manuals from each unit) and confirmed the corrections were completed.

4OA6 Exit Meeting Summary

On September 13, 2001, the NRC provided examination results to Beaver Valley management representatives, via telephone. License numbers for the applicants who passed all portions of the exam were also provided.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION

C. Hynes Director of Operations Training
T. Wooley Senior Nuclear Operator Training Instructor
T. Gaydosik Supervisor of Licensed Operator Training

NRC

T. Fish Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner)
P. Bissett Senior Operations Engineer
J. D'Antonio Operations Engineer

SUMMARY OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED AND DISCUSSED

| <u>ITEM NUMBER</u> | <u>TYPE</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|

NONE