

January 18, 2002

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice President
Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 50-255/01-301(DRS)

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On December 21, 2001, the NRC completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Palisades Nuclear Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of the examination.

Palisades training department personnel administered the written examination on December 21, 2001, and NRC examiners administered the operating test during the same week. Four Reactor Operator and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on January 15, 2002. All applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Four Reactor Operator and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were issued applicable operator licenses.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document control system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADQAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

D. Cooper

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely,

/RA by David Pelton Acting For/

David E. Hills, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosures: 1. Operator Licensing Examination Report
50-255/01-301(DRS)
2. Simulation Facility Report
3. Written Examinations and Answer Keys (RO & SRO)

cc w/encls 1 & 2: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Fossil and Hydro Operations
L. Lahti, Manager, Licensing
R. Anderson, Chief Nuclear Officer, NMC
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
S. Wawro, Nuclear Asset Director, Consumers Energy Company
W. Rendell, Supervisor, Covert Township
Office of the Governor
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Attorney General (MI)

cc w/encls 1, 2 & 3: E. Bogue, Training Manager

D. Cooper

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- R. Anderson, Chief Nuclear Officer, NMC
- A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
- S. Wawro, Nuclear Asset Director, Consumers Energy Company
- W. Rendell, Supervisor, Covert Township
Office of the Governor
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Attorney General (MI)

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 50-255
License No: DPR-20

Report No: 50-255/01-301(DRP)

Licensee: Nuclear Management Company, LLC

Facility: Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant

Location: 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

Dates: December 17 through 21, 2001

Examiners: M. Bielby, Chief Examiner
R. M. Morris, Examiner

Approved by: David E. Hills, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000255/01-301, on 12/17-21/2001, Nuclear Management Company, LLC, Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant. Initial License Examination Report.

The announced operator licensing initial examination was conducted by regional examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1.

Examination Summary

- Four Reactor Operator applicants and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were administered written examinations and operating tests for initial operator licensing. All applicants passed all portions of their respective examinations. Four Reactor Operator applicants and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were issued applicable licenses.

Report Details

2. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other

.1 Initial Licensing Examinations

a. Examination Scope

The NRC examiners conducted announced operator licensing initial examinations during the week of December 17, 2001. The facility's training staff used the guidance established in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, to prepare the examination outline and to develop the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners administered the operating test during the week of December 17, 2001. The facility's training staff administered the written examination on December 21, 2001. Four Reactor Operator applicants and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were examined.

b. Findings

Written Examination

During their initial review, the examiners determined that the examination, as submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Examination changes, agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee, were made according to NUREG-1021. The licensee did not submit any post-examination changes.

Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Examination changes, agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee, were made according to NUREG-1021.

Examination Results

Four Reactor Operator applicants and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were administered written examinations and operating tests for initial operator licensing. All applicants passed all portions of their respective examinations. Four Reactor Operator applicants and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were issued applicable licenses.

.2 Examination Security

a. Inspection Scope

The examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination preparation and administration.

b. Findings

The NRC examiners determined that the licensee's examination security practices associated with the development and administration of the operator license examinations were satisfactory.

4OA6 Meetings

Exit Meeting

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings to Mr. Cooper and other members of the licensee management on December 21, 2001. The licensee acknowledged the observations and findings presented.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

D. Cooper, Site Vice President
D. Malone, Plant General Manager
K. Marbaugh, Nuclear Oversight
P. Harden, Director, Engineering
K. Smith, Operations Manager
B. Heimsath, Operations Supervisor
L. Bogue, Director, Training
G. Packard, Operations Superintendent
L. Lahti, Licensing Manager
G. Baustian, Operations Training Supervisor
D. Hensley, Operations Training Instructor
R. Frigo, Licensing Engineer
D. Malone, Licensing Regulatory Compliance Supervisor

NRC

J. Lennartz, Senior Resident Inspector

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADAMS	Agency-Wide Document Access and Management System
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
DRP	Division of Reactor Projects
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records
RO	Reactor Operator
SRO	Senior Reactor Operator

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Palisades
 Facility Docket No: 50-255
 Operating Tests Administered: December 17 - 21, 2001

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
None	

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS AND ANSWER KEYS (RO/SRO)

RO Initial Examination ADAMS Accession # ML020170500
SRO Initial Examination ADAMS Accession # ML020170505