

March 12, 2002

Mr. Philip M. Orlosky
79 Dorset Drive
Depew, NY 14043

Dear Mr. Orlosky:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 24, 2001, in which you requested information regarding operators' licenses. Unfortunately, a portion of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) mail has suffered considerable handling delays following the anthrax incidents that occurred late last year and your letter was not received in this office until February 25, 2002. We apologize for the delay.

Due to changes in record keeping over the years some information regarding license holders, including the first license is no longer available. Initially, operating license information was kept by paper records. These records were destroyed 10 years after a license expired. In the 1980s certain NRC activities were moved to our regional offices. Power reactor operator licensing was one such activity that transferred to the Regions while non-power (research and test) reactor oversight has been maintained at headquarters. As a consequence, the numbering systems have changed. Our best estimate is that approximately 15,000 operator licenses have been issued over the years. At the present time, there are approximately 5,000 active licenses.

We hope that this information helps you in your research.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Theodore R. Quay, Chief
Equipment and Human Performance Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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