



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

August 16, 2002

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION -
BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT 50-259/2002-301, 50-260/2002-301 AND
50-296/2002-301**

Dear Mr. Scalice:

In a telephone conversation on July 25, 2002, between Mr. Terry Chinn, Operations Training Manager and Mr. Randy Knight, Operations Lead Instructor, of your staff and Mr. Timothy Kolb, Operations Engineer of my staff, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 and 3 during the week of December 16, 2002 (operating test) and December 13, 2002 (written examination). The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of November 18, 2002.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, the NRC will prepare the written examination based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your staff has agreed to prepare the operating examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards (ES) for Power Reactors." The written exam will be submitted to the facility for review by October 28, 2002. The operating test will be submitted to the NRC for review by October 28, 2002. The facility has also agreed to make all of the copies of the examination prior to administration.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 by September 16, 2002. Any delay in receiving the required operating and written examination reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJs1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0101), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Terry Chinn has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Edwin Lea at (404) 562-4567, (Internet E-mail: exl2@nrc.gov) or me at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: mee@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-259, 50-260, 50-296
License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

cc: (See page 3)

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4

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