



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

September 24, 2002

R. T. Ridenoure
Division Manager - Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 550
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0550

**SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION - NRC INITIAL EXAMINATION
REPORT 50-285/02-301**

Dear Mr. Ridenoure:

On September 12, 2002, the NRC completed an initial examination at your Fort Calhoun Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on September 12, 2002, with members of your staff.

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

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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-285
License: DPR-40

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-285/02-301

cc w/enclosure:

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SC, DRP/TSS **(PHH)**

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ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket: 50-285

License: DPR-40

Report No.: 50-285/02-301

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: September 6-12, 2002

Examiners: Tom O. McKernon, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch
Gary W. Johnston, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
Howard F. Bundy, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch

Approved By: Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000285/02-301, on 09/6-12/2002, Omaha Public Power District; Fort Calhoun Station, Initial Examination of Applicants for Operator Licenses.

An NRC examination team evaluated the competency of three applicants for reactor operator licenses, and three 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, Supplement 1. The written examinations were administered to all applicants on September 6, 2002, by facility proctors in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on September 9-12, 2002. All applicants passed all portions of the written and operating test. The appropriate licenses were issued. No findings of significance were identified (40A4.1).

Examination Details

4. **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

4OA4 Initial License Examinations

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On September 6, 2002, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all six applicants. The licensee's staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC examination team on September 12, 2002.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to the six applicants on September 9-12, 2002. The three applicants for reactor 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 one applicant for instant senior operator license participated in 2 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 applicants that were upgrading from a reactor operator license to a senior operator license participated in 2 or 3 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 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 no changes to the grading of the written examinations. The average score was 91.2 percent and individual scores ranged from 87 to 95 percent. The scores for the reactor operator applicants ranged from 87 to 94 percent. The senior operator applicants scores ranged from 90 to 95 percent. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the attachment.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Examination Scope

The licensee developed the written and operating examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, using the facility training and operations staff specified on the security agreement.

The facility licensee submitted the operating examination outlines on May 14, 2002. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the criteria of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee. The facility licensee submitted the draft operating examination package on July 15, 2002. The chief examiner reviewed the draft submittal against the criteria of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee on the examinations on July 21, 2002. The chief examiner conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided further comments during the week of August 26, 2002. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution on September 3, 2002.

b. Findings

Region IV management approved the initial examination outline and advised the licensee to proceed with the 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. J. Goodell, Operations Manager, and other members of the licensee's staff at the conclusion of the examination on September 12, 2002. 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

Key Persons Contacted

Licensee

P. Cronin, Operations
D. Dryden, Licensing
D. Dryden, Licensing
W. Goodell, Manager, Shift Operations
J. Koske, Training Consultant
M. Smith, Class Coordinator, Operations Training
D. Weaver, Supervisor, Operations Training
R. Westcott, Manager, Training

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No.:

ML022610219 Final Reference Examination