



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

September 24, 2002

William A. Eaton, Vice President
Operations - Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

**SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION - NRC EXAMINATION
REPORT 50-416/02-301**

Dear Mr. Eaton:

On August 30, 2002, the NRC completed an examination at your Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings which were discussed on August 30, 2002, with you and other members of your staff.

The examination included the evaluation of seven applicants for reactor operator licenses and one applicant for a senior operator license. We determined that all eight 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: 50-416
License: NPF-29

Enclosure:
NRC Examination Report
50-416/02-301

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket: 50-416
License: NPF-29
Report No.: 50-416/02-301
Licensee: Entergy Operations, Inc.
Facility: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Location: Waterloo Road
Port Gibson, Mississippi
Dates: August 26-30, 2002
Examiners: M. Murphy, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
A. Sanchez, Resident Inspector, Projects Branch A
L. Vick, Reactor Engineer (Examiner Qualified), Headquarters
Approved By: Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 50-416/03-301; on August 26-30, 2002; Entergy Operations, Inc., Grand Gulf Nuclear Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of seven applicants for a reactor operator license and one applicant for a senior operator license at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The facility developed the written and operating examination using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. The written examination was administered by the facility to the applicants on August 23, 2002. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on August 26-30, 2002. No findings of significance were identified (Section 40A4.1).

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA4 Initial Operator License Examination

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On August 23, 2002, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examination to all eight applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on August 30, 2002.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to the applicants on August 26-30, 2002. The seven applicants for reactor operator licenses participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks. The individual upgrading from a reactor operator license to senior reactor operator participated in one dynamic simulator scenario, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of five system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks.

b. Findings

All eight of the applicants passed all parts of the examinations. The applicants demonstrated good 3-way communications, alarm response, and peer checking. For the written examinations, the reactor operator applicants average score was 95.3 percent and ranged from 93.0 to 99.0 percent. The overall written examination average was 95.3 percent. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment.

The licensee conducted a performance analysis for the written examinations, submitting them to the Chief Examiner on August 30, 2002. Two questions were missed by 50 percent or more of the applicants. The analysis identified no common knowledge deficiency. No remediation training was determined to be necessary following the examinations.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The licensee developed the written examination in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, using facility training and operations staff on the security agreement to prepare and validate the examination.

.2.1 Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee submitted the integrated examination outlines on May 1, 2002. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee. The facility licensee submitted the final draft examination package on June 12, 2002. The chief examiner reviewed the draft submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee on the examination on August 12-15, 2002. The NRC conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided further comments during the week of August 12, 2002. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution on August 15, 2002.

b. Findings

Region IV approved the initial examination outline and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating 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 compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

.4OA5 Management Meeting

Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented the examination results to Mr. William A. Eaton at the conclusion of the operating examination on August 30, 2002. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

The licensee did not identify as proprietary any information or materials examined during the examination.

ATTACHMENT

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

R. Barnes, Training Manager
C. Bottemiller, Manager, Licensing
W. Eaton, Vice President Operations
T. Errington, Administrative Shift, Operations
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NRC

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ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

GG-08/2002 Final RO-SRO Written Reference Examination - Accession No. ML022660507