

September 26, 2002

Mr. Bryce L. Shriver
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Susquehanna Steam Electric Station
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB3
Berwick, PA 18603-0035

SUBJECT: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION - OPERATOR AND SENIOR
REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT NOS.
50-387/02-301 & 50-388/02-301

Dear Mr. Shriver:

This report transmits the results of the reactor operator (RO) and senior reactor operator (SRO) licensing examination conducted by the NRC during the period of August 12 -21, 2002. This examination addressed areas important to public health and safety and was developed and administered using the guidelines of the "Examination Standards for Power Reactors" (NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1).

Based on the results of the examination, four of the five Senior Reactor Operators and all three of the Reactor Operator applicants passed all portions of the examination. One Senior Reactor Operator applicant failed the operating portion of the examination. The eight applicants included three ROs, four instant SROs and one upgrade SRO. Mr. A. Blamey discussed performance insights observed during the examination with Mr. R. Chin on August 28, 2002. On September 11, 2002, final examination results, including individual license numbers, were given during a telephone call between Mr. A. Blamey and Mr. W. Hunt.

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). These records include the final examination and are available in ADAMS (RO and SRO Written - Accession Number ML022550246; RO and SRO Operating Section A - Accession Number ML022550268; RO and SRO Operating Section B - Accession Number ML022550286; and RO and SRO Operating Section C - Accession Number ML022550317), and ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/ADAMS.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Mr. Bryce L. Shriver

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Should you have any questions regarding this examination, please contact me at (610) 337-5183, or by E-mail at RJC@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-387, 50-388

License Nos. NPF-14, NPF-22

Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 50-387/02-301, 50-388/02-301

cc w/encl:

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Mr. Bryce L. Shriver

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NAME	CBuracker		ABlamey		RJConte		MShanbaky			
DATE	9/20/02		9/19/02		9/26/02		9/26/02			

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No(s): 50-387, 50-388

License No: NPF-14, NPF-22

Report Nos: 50-387/02-301, 50-388/02-301

Licensee: PPL Susquehanna, LLC

Facility: Susquehanna Units 1 & 2

Dates: August 21, 2002 (Written Examination Administration)
August 12-16, 2002 (Operating Test Administration)
August 30, 2002 (Examination Grading)

Examiners: A. Blamey, Senior Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner)
J. Laughlin, Operations Engineer
C. Sisco, Operations Engineer
S. Barr, Operations Engineer (under instruction)
J. Munro, Senior Reactor Engineering / Examiner (observer)

Approved by: Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000387/02-301, 05000388/02-301; PPL Susquehanna, LLC; August 12-16, August 30, 2002; Susquehanna Units 1 & 2; Initial Operator Licensing Examination. Seven of eight applicants passed the examination (3 reactor operators passed, 4 SRO instantants passed, and 1 SRO upgrade failed).

The written examinations were administered by the facility and the operating tests were administered by four NRC region-based examiners, one under instruction. There were no inspection findings of significance associated with the examinations.

A. Inspector Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

B. License Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

Report Details

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Mitigating Systems - Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) Initial License Examination

a. Scope of Review

The Susquehanna training and operations personnel developed the written and operating initial examinations and together with the NRC examination team verified or ensured, as applicable, the following:

- The examination was prepared and developed in accordance with the guidelines of Revision 8, Supplement 1 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." A review was conducted both in the Region I office and at the Susquehanna plant and training facility. Final resolution of comments and incorporation of test revisions were conducted during and following the onsite preparation week.
- Simulation facility operation was proper.
- A test item analysis was completed on the written examination for feedback into the systems approach to training program.
- Examination security requirements were met.

The NRC examiners administered the operating portion of the examination to all applicants from August 12 - August 16, 2002. The written examination was later administered by the Susquehanna training staff on August 21, 2002.

b. Findings

Grading and Results

There were a total of eight applicants (3 reactor operators, 4 SRO instantants, and 1 SRO upgrade) who took the initial licensing examination. Seven of the eight applicants passed all portions of the examination.

The facility had no post-examination comments.

Examination Administration and Performance

No findings of significance were identified.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA2 Problem Identification and Resolution

a. Effectiveness of Problem Identification

(1) Inspection Scope

During the previous initial license operator examination, in August 2001, Susquehanna had twelve (12) post-examination comments on the written exam and recommended deleting or changing the answers to 8% of the questions on the written exam that Susquehanna had developed. This constituted a relatively large number of changes to the written exam (in excess of 5% (8%)). In 2001, Susquehanna initiated Condition Report (CR) No. 350472 to investigate this problem. During the August 2002, initial operators license examination, the examiners reviewed the 2002 exam and the post-exam analysis. The examiners determined that the 2002 examination was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination in accordance with NUREG 1021, Rev. 8, Supplement 1, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." There were no post-examination comments on the August 2002 examination.

(2) Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA6 Exit Meeting Summary

On September 11, 2002, the NRC provided conclusions and examination results to Susquehanna management representatives via telephone. License numbers for seven of eight applicants were also provided during this time. The eighth applicant passed the written portion but failed the operating portion of the initial licensing examination and therefore was denied a license at this time.

The NRC expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance that was provided during the preparation and administration of the examination by the licensee's training staff.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

LICENSEE

R. Chin	Operations Instructor/Unit Supervisor, Operator Training
W. Hunt	Manager, Operator Training

NRC

A. Blamey	Senior Operations Engineer
J. Laughlin	Operations Engineer
C. Sisco	Operations Engineer
S. Barr	Operations Engineer (under instruction)
J. Munro	Senior Reactor Engineering / Examiner (observer)

LIST OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

<u>ITEM NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
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NONE