

October 11, 2002

Mr. T. Coutu
Site Vice President
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
N490 Hwy 42
Kewaunee, WI 54216

SUBJECT: KEWAUNEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
USNRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 50-305/02-301(DRS)

Dear Mr. Coutu:

On September 6, 2002, the NRC completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of the examination.

The NRC administered the operating test the weeks of August 26 and September 2, 2002, and your training department personnel administered the written examination on September 6, 2002. Six reactor operator and seven senior reactor operator applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on October 2, 2002. All thirteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations resulting in the issuance of six reactor operator licenses and four senior reactor operator licenses.

During the NRC's review of initial license applications, three senior reactor operator applicants were given credit for having performed reactivity manipulations using your plant-reference simulator. During a recent inspection of your licensed operator requalification training program, the NRC identified issues related to the fidelity of your plant-reference simulator and the appropriateness of having used the simulator for the performance of required reactivity manipulations. As a result, senior reactor operator licenses were not issued to these three individuals pending the NRC's review and resolution of the simulator fidelity issues. Once the NRC has resolved these issues, we will contact Kewaunee plant management to discuss actions required to complete the processing of these licenses.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures 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/

David L. Pelton, Acting Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-305
License No. DPR-43

Enclosures: 1. Operator Licensing Examination Report
50-305/02-301(DRS)
2. Simulation Facility Report
3. Written Examinations and Answer Keys (RO & SRO)

cc w/encls 1 & 2: D. Graham, Director, Bureau of Field Operations
Chairman, Wisconsin Public Service Commission
State Liaison Officer

cc w/encls 1, 2, & 3: K. Davison, Training Department

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 50-305
License No: DPR-43

Report No: 50-305/02-301(DRS)

Licensee: Nuclear Management Company, LLC

Facility: Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

Location: N490 Highway 42
Kewaunee, WI 54216

Dates: August 26 through September 6, 2002

Examiners: Michael E. Bielby, Chief Examiner
Bruce B. Palagi, Examiner
Phillip T. Young, Examiner

Approved by: David L. Pelton, Acting Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000305-02-301(DRS); Nuclear Management Company, LLC; on 08/26-09/06/2002; Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant.

The announced operator licensing initial examination was conducted by regional examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1.

Examination Summary

Thirteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations resulting in the issuance of six reactor operator licenses and four senior reactor operator licenses (Section 4OA5.1).

During the NRC's review of initial license applications, three senior reactor operator applicants were given credit for having performed reactivity manipulations using the plant-reference simulator. During a recent inspection of the licensed operator requalification training program, the NRC identified issues related to the fidelity of the plant-reference simulator and the appropriateness of having used the simulator for the performance of required reactivity manipulations. As a result, senior reactor operator licenses were not issued to these three individuals pending the NRC's review and resolution of the simulator fidelity issues. Once the NRC has resolved the issues, we will contact Kewaunee plant management to discuss actions required to complete the processing of these licenses (Section 4OA5.1).

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA5 Other Activities

.1 Initial Licensing Examinations

a. Examination Scope

The NRC examiners conducted announced operator licensing initial examinations during the weeks of August 26 and September 2, 2002. The facility's training staff used the guidance established in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, to prepare the examination outline and to develop the written and operating examinations. The facility's training staff administered the written examination on September 6, 2002. The NRC examiners administered the operating examination the weeks of August 26 and September 2, 2002. Six reactor operator applicants and seven senior reactor operator applicants were examined.

b. Findings

Written Examination

The NRC examiners determined that the written examination, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Examination changes, agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee, were made according to NUREG-1021. There were no post-examination comments identified by either the NRC or the licensee.

Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Examination changes, agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made according to NUREG-1021.

Examination Results

Six reactor operator applicants and seven senior reactor operator applicants were administered written examinations and operating tests for initial operator licensing. All thirteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations resulting in the issuance of six reactor operator licenses and four senior reactor operator licenses.

During the NRC's review of initial license applications, three senior reactor operator applicants were given credit for having performed reactivity manipulations using your plant-reference simulator. During a recent inspection of your licensed operator requalification training program, the NRC identified issues related to the fidelity of your

plant-reference simulator and the appropriateness of having used the simulator for the performance of required reactivity manipulations. As a result, senior reactor operator licenses were not issued to these three individuals pending the NRC's review and resolution of the simulator fidelity issues. Once the NRC has resolved the issues, we will contact Kewaunee plant management to discuss actions required to complete the processing of these licenses.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination preparation and administration.

b. Findings

The NRC examiners determined that the licensee's examination security practices associated with the development and administration of the operator license examinations were satisfactory.

4OA6 Meeting(s)

Exit Meeting

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings to Mr. Tom Coutu and other members of the licensee management on September 6, 2002. The licensee acknowledged the observations and findings presented and did not identify any proprietary information.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

A. Bolyen, Licensing Engineering
T. Coutu, Plant Manager/Site Vice-President, Kewaunee Site
R. Ginham, Training Instructor
W. Godes, Training Supervisor
J. McCarthy, Operations Manager
J. Owens, Training Supervisor
P. Short, Training Instructor
C. Sizemore, Training Supervisor
K. Davison, Operations Training Manager

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Michael E. Bielby, Chief Examiner

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ADAMS	Agency-Wide Document Access and Management System
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
NMC	Nuclear Management Company
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records
RO	Reactor Operator
SRO	Senior Reactor Operator

Simulation Facility Report

Facility Licensee: Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

Facility Docket No.: 50-305

Operating Tests Administered: August 26 - September 5, 2002

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
None	

Enclosure 3

Written Examinations and Answer Keys (RO/SRO)

Reactor Operator/Senior Reactor Operator Examination ADAMS Accession No. ML022820684.