



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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March 26, 2003

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: SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL RE-TAKE EXAMINATION - BROWNS
FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT 50-259/2003-301, 50-260/2003-301 AND 50-
296/2003-301**

Dear Mr. Scalice:

In a telephone conversation on March 24, 2003, between Mr. Randy Knight, Operations Lead Instructor, of your staff and Mr. Edwin Lea, Senior Operations Engineer of my staff, arrangements were made for the administration of a re-take licensing examination at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant on May 8, 2003. The administrative section of the operating test will be administrated to a senior operator applicant.

As agreed during the conversation, your staff will prepare the examination based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examination is administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the administrative section of the operating test, and the supporting reference materials by April 11, 2003. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outline, examination, and test before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examination to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the administrative section of the operating test, it will be necessary for your staff to make the simulation facility available on May 8, 2003.

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

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit a preliminary senior reactor operator license application (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certification (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the application is not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement

may be necessary. Signed application certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 7 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 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, 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. Knight 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 myself 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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