

April 16, 2003

Mr. Bryce L. Shriver
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB3
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

SUBJECT: SENIOR REACTOR AND REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS -
SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Shriver:

In telephone conversations on April 11, 2003, between Mr. John Caruso, Senior Examiner/Inspector, and Mr. Bruce Stitt, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2, during the week of August 11, 2003.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in pilot Revision 9 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 examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by May 23, 2003. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified during this conversation will be due by June 23, 2003. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials should 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 examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

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

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024),

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and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

In response to your letter dated February 12, 2003 requesting an evaluation of an individual senior reactor operator (SRO) applicant experience in meeting the requirements of Regulatory Guide 1.8, Revision 2, see attached Report of Interaction 02-05 that concluded the applicant's experience is sufficient for licensing as an SRO. In addition, in response to your letters dated January 21, 2003, February 4, 2004, and March 24, 2003, the attached Report of Interaction 03-02 has approved your requests to grant deferrals for completing the training requirement of six months on-site experience as noted in NUREG 1021, Rev. 8, Supp.1, ES-202 in order to permit an individual SRO applicant to sit for the August 2003 NRC license examination and seven SRO applicants to sit for the August 2004 NRC license examination. Licenses will be held pending successfully passing the examinations and after Susquehanna provides documentary evidence that the applicant(s) have completed a total of six months of "responsible nuclear power plant experience" on-site.

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 SLF@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. Bruce Stitt 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 Mr. John Caruso at (610) 337-5389, or me at (610) 337-5183.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 50-387/388
License Nos. NPF-14/NPF-22

Enclosures:
As stated
cc w/o encl:

J. H. Miller, President - PPL Generation, LLC
R. L. Anderson, Vice President - Nuclear Operations for PPL Susquehanna LLC
R. A. Saccone, General Manager - Nuclear Engineering
A. J. Wrape, III, General Manager, Nuclear Assurance
T. L. Harpster, General Manager - Plant Support
K. Roush, Manager, Nuclear Training
W. M. Hunt, Manager, Nuclear Training
G. F. Ruppert, Manager, Nuclear Operations
J. D. Shaw, Manager, Station Engineering
T. P. Kirwin, Manager, Nuclear Maintenance
R. M. Paley, Manager, Work Management
Director, Bureau of Radiation Protection
R. E. Smith, Jr., Manager, Radiation Protection
W. F. Smith, Jr., Manager, Corrective Action & Assessments
D. F. Roth, Manager, Quality Assurance
R. R. Sgarro, Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
R. Ferentz, Manager - Nuclear Security
C. D. Markley, Supervisor - Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
M. H. Crowthers, Supervising Engineer
H. D. Woodeshick, Special Office of the President
B. A. Snapp, Esquire, Associate General Counsel, PPL Services Corporation
R. W. Osborne, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Board of Supervisors, Salem Township
J. Johnsrud, National Energy Committee
Supervisor - Document Control Services
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (c/o R. Janati, Chief, Division of Nuclear Safety,
Pennsylvania Bureau of Radiation Protection)

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T. McGinty, RI EDO Coordinator

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R. Guzman, NRR

T. Colburn, PM, NRR

D. Skay, NRR (Backup)

J. Caruso, DRS, Chief Examiner

C. Buracker, DRS (OL Facility File)

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ADAMS PKG: ML030300166 Report No. 03-301

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