

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

June 22, 1988

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 88-40: EXAMINERS' HANDBOOK FOR DEVELOPING
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

Addressees:

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors.

Purpose:

This information notice provides addressees a copy of NUREG/BR-0122, "Examiners' Handbook for Developing Operator Licensing Examinations." It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities. However, the information contained in this information notice does not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Background:

The NRC staff has developed the above-mentioned handbook to improve the content validity of the operator licensing examinations. The content has been made more valid through the performance of job/task analysis focusing on the delineation of essential knowledge and abilities. Additional copies of this handbook are available for examination and copying for a fee at the Public Document Room of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.

Discussion:

After the NRC examiners have been trained in the procedures described in NUREG/BR-0122, the format of the operator licensing examinations administered under 10 CFR 55.41 or 55.43 should reflect the sampling plans contained in the handbook. These sampling plans should incorporate the knowledge and abilities requirements contained in NUREG-1122, "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Pressurized Water Reactors" and NUREG-1123, "Knowledge and Abilities Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Boiling Water Reactors."

The new format will change the sections of the written examinations for all initial and replacement examinations. As detailed in the enclosed handbook, the reactor operator written examination should normally sample: (1) 25% of its content from the fundamentals area (reactor theory, thermodynamics, and

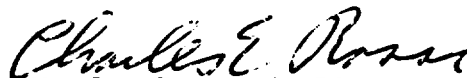
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component operation), (2) 48% from plant systems and plant-wide safety and administrative procedures, and (3) 27% from emergency and abnormal plant evolutions. For senior reactor operators, the written examination content should normally sample: (1) 24% from fundamentals, (2) 33% from emergency and abnormal evolutions, and (3) 43% from plant systems and plant-wide safety and administrative procedures. Candidates must obtain a score of 70% in each of the three sections and an overall score of 80% to pass the written examination.

After full implementation of the handbook, expected in the fall of 1988, NUREG/BR-0122 will provide guidance to operator licensing examiners for the development of initial and replacement written licensing examinations. The training staff at the plants may wish to become familiar with the handbook as far in advance of their examinations as possible so that there will be a maximum benefit for candidates.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the technical contact listed below or the Regional Administrator of the appropriate regional office.



Charles E. Rossi, Director
Division of Operational Events Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact: Susan F. Shankman, NRR
(301) 492-1053

Attachments:

1. NUREG/BR-0122, "Examiners' Handbook for Developing Operator Licensing Examinations"
2. List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
 NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
88-39	LaSalle Unit 2 Loss of Recirculation Pumps With Power Oscillation Event	6/15/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for BWRs.
88-38	Failure of Undervoltage Trip Attachment on General Electric Circuit Breakers	6/15/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-37	Flow Blockage of Cooling Water to Safety System Components	6/14/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-36	Possible Sudden Loss of RCS Inventory During Low Coolant Level Operation	6/8/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for PWRs.
88-35	Inadequate Licensee Performed Vendor Audits	6/3/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-34	Nuclear Material Control and Accountability of Non-Fuel Special Nuclear Material at Power Reactors	5/31/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
87-61, Supplement 1	Failure of Westinghouse W-2-Type Circuit Breaker Cell Switches	5/31/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-33	Recent Problems Involving the Model Spec 2-T Radiographic Exposure Device	5/27/88	All Agreement States and NRC licensees authorized to manufacture, distribute or operate radiographic exposure devices and source changers.

OL = Operating License
 CP = Construction Permit

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*OGCB:DOEA:NRR PKadambi 06/08/88	*LOLB:DLPQ:NRR SShankman 06/07/88	*LOLB:DLPQ:NRR LAWiens 06/9/88	*C/LOLB:DLPQ:NRR JHannon 06/9/88
			*DD/DLPQ:NRR JZwolinski 06/10/88

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*OGCB:DOEA:NRR	*LOLB:DLPQ:NRR	LOLB:DLPQ:NRR	C/LOLB:DLPQ:NRR
PKadambi	SShankman	LAWiens	JHannon
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