



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

April 4, 1989

TO: LICENSEES OF ALL POWER REACTORS AND APPLICANTS FOR A REACTOR  
OPERATOR'S LICENSE UNDER 10 CFR PART 55

SUBJECT: PILOT TESTING OF THE FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (Generic Letter 89- 05)

This letter is to inform facility licensees and potential applicants under 10 CFR Part 55 that the NRC is offering a second pilot test of the fundamentals examination for candidates for an NRC operator's license. During this pilot test, examinations will be administered to candidates for a license to operate both Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) and Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs). The pilot test will be used to refine the development, administration, and grading process for the fundamentals examination. Applicants who participate in this pilot test and achieve a passing grade of 70 percent or a higher percentage will receive a waiver under 10 CFR 55.47 of the applicable section of the written examination that is required by 10 CFR 55.41 or 55.43.

The staff's review of the content of examinations prepared in accordance with 10 CFR Part 55 and the Examiner Standards 301 and 401 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," Revision 5, indicates that the subject matter presented in some sections is generic to all BWRs or all PWRs. The subject matter includes reactor theory, heat transfer, thermodynamics, fluid flow, and component operations. The staff's review of current training programs indicates that these topics are normally presented early in the operator and senior operator training programs. Mastery of this fundamentals subject matter is an important first step of training, which includes systems and plant characteristics, on-the-job training, and simulator training.

In developing the fundamentals examination, the staff used subject matter contained in the 291000 through 293000 series of the "Knowledge and Abilities (K/A) Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Boiling Water Reactors" (NUREG-1123), and the 191000 through 193000 series of the "Knowledge and Abilities (K/A) Catalog for Nuclear Power Plant Operators: Pressurized Water Reactors" (NUREG-1122). The K/As provided the basis for the testing objectives from which a bank of multiple choice questions has been developed and screened for use in this examination. Each examination will contain approximately 50 multiple choice questions and will require approximately 3 hours to complete. We plan to administer the pilot examinations at one central location in each region. As the examinations will be graded by machine, we expect to promulgate the test results within 10 days after the administration of the examination.

Copies of the fundamentals examination test sheets will be returned to each volunteer and facility training department for comment. The NRC staff will summarize any comments received in a Commission paper. After reviewing this summary, the Commission will evaluate a policy to require passing the fundamentals examination as a prerequisite condition to applying for a license to operate a nuclear power plant under 10 CFR 55.31.

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TDR-5  
INFO-HR

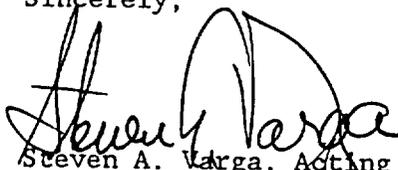
The following conditions will apply to pilot testing of the fundamentals examination:

- The Commission will waive the usual requirements under 10 CFR 55.31, "Subpart D - Applications." Therefore, Form NRC-398 does not need to be submitted.
- Volunteers should be enrolled in either a facility-sponsored reactor operator or senior reactor operator training course.
- Volunteers who pass the fundamentals examination with a score of 70 percent or a higher percentage will be granted a waiver under 10 CFR 55.47 of the appropriate section (1 or 4) of the written examination.
- Volunteers who do not achieve a grade of 70 percent will subsequently be able to take the entire regularly scheduled written examination at the site. As a formal application under 10 CFR 55.31 is not required, the provisions of 10 CFR 55.35, "Re-applications," will not apply.
- Pilot testing of these examinations is planned for June 28, 1989. You will be informed of the exact time, and location of the examinations within 60 days after the date of this generic letter.

Candidates interested in participating in this program are requested to submit the enclosed application to Mr. Kenneth E. Perkins, Chief, Operator Licensing Branch, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, with a copy to the appropriate Regional Administrator. These applications must be received by April 21, 1989, to ensure participation in these pilot tests. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this generic letter, please call Mr. Perkins at (301) 492-1031.

This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget Clearance Number 3150-0090 which expires January 31, 1992. The estimated average burden is 2 hours per response. Comments on the accuracy of this estimate and suggestions to reduce the burden may be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0090), Room 3208, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Records and Reports Management Branch, Office of Information Resources Management, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Varga, Acting  
Associate Director for Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Application for Pilot Testing  
of Fundamentals Examination

Enclosure  
(GL 89-05)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, employed at the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) (Station Name)

50- request participation in the Pilot Test Program of.  
(Facility Docket Number)

the Fundamentals Examination for an operator or a senior operator license. I

agree to the conditions outlined in GL-89-(05).

Applicant:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Training Department Manager Date

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED GENERIC LETTERS

Generic Letter No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued To
89-04	GUIDANCE ON DEVELOPING ACCEPTABLE INSERVICE TESTING PROGRAMS	4/3/89	ALL HOLDERS OF LIGHT WATER REACTOR OPERATING LICENSES AND CONSTRUCTION PERMITS
89-03	OPERATOR LICENSING NATIONAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE	3/24/89	ALL POWER REACTOR LICENSEES AND APPLICANTS FOR AN OPERATING LICENSE
89-02	ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE DETECTION OF COUNTERFEIT AND FRAUDULENTLY MARKETED PRODUCTS	3/21/89	ALL HOLDERS OF OPERATING LICENSES AND CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS
89-01	IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMATIC CONTROLS FOR RADIOLOGICAL EFFLUENT TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS SECTION OF THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND THE RELOCATION OF PROCEDURAL DETAILS OF RETS TO THE OFFSITE DOSE CALCULATION MANUAL OR TO THE PROCESS CONTROL PROGRAM.	1/31/89	ALL LICENSEES HOLDING OPERATING LICENSES AND CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR FACILITIES.
88-20	INDIVIDUAL PLANT EXAMINATION FOR SEVERE ACCIDENT VULNERABILITIES - 10 CFR 50.54(f)	11/23/88	ALL LICENSEES HOLDING OPERATING LICENSES AND CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR FACILITIES
88-19	USE OF DEADLY FORCE BY LICENSEE GUARDS TO PREVENT THEFT OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL	10/28/88	ALL FUEL CYCLE FACILITY LICENSEES WHO POSSESS, USE, IMPORT, EXPORT, OR TRANSPORT FORMULA QUANTITIES OF STRATEGIC SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL
88-18	PLANT RECORD STORAGE ON OPTICAL DISKS	10/20/88	ALL LICENSEES OF OPERATING REACTORS AND HOLDERS OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

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 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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Distribution and concurrence for Second Pilot Generic Letter dated April 4, 1989

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NRC PDR

~~Letter~~  
 Memo requesting waiver of CRGR review sent out March 15, 1989  
 PVD

DOYLE - 1

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NAME	: FJMiraglia	: SAVarga	:	:	:	:
DATE	: 3/10/89	: 3/22/89	:	:	:	:

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Gen Ltr for Second Pilot of Generic Fundamentals Exam 06/89



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 16 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Edward Jordan, Director  
Office for Analysis and Evaluation  
of Operational Data

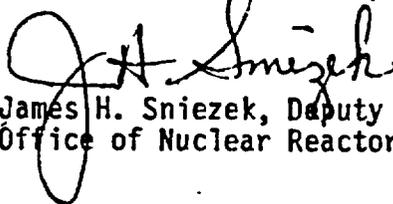
FROM: James H. Sniezek, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: WAIVER OF CRGR REVIEW OF GENERIC LETTER TO INFORM PWR AND BWR  
LICENSEES AND APPLICANTS FOR OPERATOR LICENSES OF A PILOT  
TESTING PROGRAM FOR THE FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION SECTION

Enclosed is a generic letter to be sent to all Pressurized-Water Reactor and Boiling-Water Reactor licensees and applicants for Operator licenses informing them of a pilot program for the administration of a generic fundamentals section of the written examinations conducted in accordance with 10 CFR 55.41 and 55.43.

The pilot program for administration of this section, separate from the site-specific written examination, is a change in the normal practice for administration of operator licensing written examinations, which is designed to simplify the training of licensed operators and reduce the burden on operator licensing examiners. The revised sequence of examination administration does not present any new staff positions and does not constitute a new requirement; therefore we believe that CRGR review is not necessary. This will be the second pilot test of this process. The first pilot test for BWR applicants was conducted on September 21, 1988. Volunteers for this pilot test are being requested in the enclosed GL-89-xx.

We plan to issue the enclosed generic letter shortly. Therefore, any comments concerning waiver of CRGR review are requested as soon as possible.

  
James H. Sniezek, Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As Stated

CONTACT:  
Kenneth E. Perkins, NRR  
X21031

~~8903270207~~



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

TO LICENSEES OF ALL POWER REACTORS AND APPLICANTS FOR A REACTOR OPERATOR'S  
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Steven A. Varga, Acting Associate Director  
for Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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(GL 89-xx)

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50- \_\_\_\_\_ request participation in the Pilot Test Program of  
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agree to the conditions outlined in GL-89-( ).

Applicant:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Training Department Manager Date

Distribution and concurrence for memo to Edward Jordan dated MAR 16 1989.

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*2/25 21.0*

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