

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

August 15, 1985

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 85-69: RECENT FELONY CONVICTION FOR CHEATING ON  
REACTOR OPERATOR REQUALIFICATION TESTS

Addressees:

All nuclear power reactor facilities holding an operating license (OL) or a construction permit (CP). All NRC licensed reactor operators and senior reactor operators.

Purpose:

This information notice is being issued to reemphasize the importance of integrity in the reactor operator licensing process and to emphasize the seriousness of the issue by mentioning the recent felony conviction and civil penalties resulting from cheating on reactor operator requalification tests. It is expected that recipients will review this information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, if appropriate, to preclude a similar problem from occurring at their facilities. No specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

In November of 1984, a former supervisor of operations at Three Mile Island Unit Two was found guilty in the United States District Court, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on two felony counts involving violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1001 and 1002. The former supervisor, who was an NRC-licensed operator, had submitted as his own work examinations which had been substantially done and prepared by someone else. The examinations were submitted in 1979 as part of the operator requalification program. The former supervisor was sentenced in March 1985 to 2 years probation, 400 hours of community service, and a \$2000 fine.

In addition to the individual felony conviction, the licensee (General Public Utilities Nuclear) was previously fined \$100,000 because the NRC holds licensees responsible for the actions of their employees. The licensee also was assessed \$40,000 in civil penalties for cheating by other individuals on licensee-administered quizzes and mock examinations.

IE Information Notice No. 84-11 was issued to highlight concerns with inaccurate qualification records and deficiencies in reactor operator training programs at other facilities.


Discussion:

General Public Utilities Nuclear has taken the following actions in regard to their reactor operator training program to prevent recurrence of licensed operator requalification problems.

1. The various individuals were disciplined relative to their level of involvement in the cheating problem.
2. The licensee implemented new examination security procedures to prevent recurrence of cheating.
3. Through letters and interviews, senior management repeatedly emphasized to all employees their policy that cheating would not be tolerated and could be the basis for termination of employment.

Applicants, operators, and plant staffs should be aware of the importance of accurate and complete records. NRC will not tolerate cheating or other falsification of records.

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

  
Edward L. Jordan, Director  
Division of Emergency Preparedness  
and Engineering Response  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

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Attachment: List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED  
IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
85-68	Diesel Generator Failure At Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Station Unit 1	8/14/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-42 Rev. 1	Loose Phosphor In Panasonic 800 Series Badge Thermoluminescent Dosimeter (TLD) Elements	8/12/85	Materials and fuel cycle licensees
85-67	Valve-Shaft-To-Actuator Key May Fall Out Of Place When Mounted Below Horizontal Axis	8/8/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-66	Discrepancies Between As-Built Construction Drawings And Equipment Installations	8/7/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-65	Crack Growth In Steam Generator Girth Welds	7/31/85	All PWR facilities holding an OL or CP
85-64	BBC Brown Boveri Low-Voltage K-Line Circuit Breakers, With Deficient Overcurrent Trip Devices Models OD-4 and 5	7/26/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-63	Potential for Common-Mode Failure of Standby Gas Treatment System on Loss of Off-Site Power	7/25/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
85-62	Backup Telephone Numbers to the NRC Operations Center	7/23/85	All power reactor facilities holding an OL and certain fuel facilities

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OL = Operating License  
CP = Construction Permit