

June 9, 2003

Mr. Stephen J. LaFlamme, Director
Nuclear Reactor Facility
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609-2280

SUBJECT: INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 50-134/OL-03-01,
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Dear Mr. LaFlamme:

During the week of April 14, 2003, the NRC administered operator licensing examinations at your Worcester Polytechnic Institute Reactor. The examination was conducted in accordance with NUREG-1478, "Non-Power Reactor Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," Revision 1. At the conclusion of the examination, the examination questions and preliminary findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at (the Public Electronic Reading Room) <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. The NRC is forwarding the individual grades to you in a separate letter which will not be released publicly. Should you have any questions concerning this examination, please contact Patrick Isaac at 301-415-1019 or via Internet e-mail at pxi@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrick M. Madden, Section Chief
Research and Test Reactors Section
Operating Reactor Improvements Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-134

Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 50-134/OL-03-01

cc w/enclosure: Please see next page

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Docket No. 50-134

cc:

Francis J. McGrath
City Manager
Worcester, MA 01608

Office of the Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division
19th Floor
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02180

Department of Environmental
Quality Engineering
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02180

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OPERATOR LICENSING INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT

REPORT NO.: 50-134/OL-03-01
FACILITY DOCKET NO.: 50-134
FACILITY LICENSE NO.: R-61
FACILITY: Worcester Polytechnic Institute
EXAMINATION DATES: 04/16/2003 - 04/17/2003
SUBMITTED BY: /RA/ 05/20/2003
Patrick Isaac, Chief Examiner Date

SUMMARY:

During the week of April 14, 2003, NRC administered operator licensing examinations to five Senior Reactor Operator Upgrade (SROU) candidates. Two candidates failed the examinations. The other three candidates passed the examinations.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Examiners:
Patrick J. Isaac, Chief Examiner

2. Results:

| | RO PASS/FAIL | SRO PASS/FAIL | TOTAL PASS/FAIL |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Written | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Operating Tests | N/A | 3/2 | 3/2 |
| Overall | N/A | 3/2 | 3/2 |

3. Exit Meeting:
Mr. Stephen LaFlamme, Director
Patrick Isaac, Chief Examiner

The Chief Examiner addressed some of the weaknesses of the candidates. These weaknesses were related to the candidates' lack of knowledge of the scrams and setpoints of the reactor protection system and the facility's technical specifications. The weaknesses are described in detail in each candidate's operating test summary, as part of Enclosure 2 of the Initial Examination Results letter. In a telephone conversation on 5/22/03, Mr. LaFlamme agreed to provide remediation by including lectures dealing specially with these findings in the next cycle of the requalification training program.

ENCLOSURE