



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

September 16, 2003

Jeff S. Forbes, Vice President,
Operations - Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

SUBJECT: NRC INITIAL LICENSED OPERATOR EXAMINATION 50-416/2004-301

Dear Mr. Forbes:

In a telephone conversation on September 9, 2003, between Messrs. T. O. McKernon and M. Rash, Operations Training, arrangements were made for the administration of an initial licensing examination at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station during the weeks of February 2 and 9, 2004.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examination based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1 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 November 10, 2003. The written and operating examinations and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by December 8, 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 shall 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 examination, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402. Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examination is being administered. Further, the NRC will conduct an examination validation during the week of January 5, 2004.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit the preliminary license application (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical

certification (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver request (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date (January 7, 2004). 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 no later than January 26, 2004.

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 3150-0101, which expires on June 30, 2006. 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 BJS1@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. M. Rash 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 Tom McKernon at (817) 860-8153, or me at (817) 860-8159.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
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Docket: 50-416
License: NPF-29

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