



**Constellation  
Energy Group**

Nine Mile Point  
Nuclear Station

RECEIVED  
REGION 1

2003 FEB 10 AM 10: 09

P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, New York 13093

NMP-97961  
February 7, 2003

Mr. Hubert J. Miller  
Regional Administrator, Region I  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

ATTENTION: Mr. Richard J. Conte, Branch Chief

SUBJECT: REPLY TO REQUEST FROM INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT  
NO. 50-220/02-302

Mr. Miller:

NRC letter dated December 12, 2002, identified a concern with the number of post-administration changes to the NRC written examination developed for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (NMPNS) Unit 1 initial operator licensing examination. That letter requested a written response to the NRC within 60 days to explain why post examination changes were necessary and what actions will be taken to improve future license examinations. This letter provides the NMPNS response to that request.

The license examination is a culmination of a significant effort by the candidates, the instructional staff, and both the line and training management. Station management expects the examination development to be conducted with diligence and attention to detail consistent with both its regulatory significance and its importance to our candidates. The number of post-administration written examination changes resulting from candidate and instructor review clearly did not meet our expectations. That issue was entered into the Corrective Action Program to establish the cause and corrective actions.

Our evaluation identified several issues that collectively contributed to the examination question weaknesses. These include:

- Project Management effectiveness and Management oversight
- Examination development weaknesses
- Examination verification and validation weaknesses

To improve our process and performance on development and review of examination materials, procedure TAP-TQS-06, "Initial License Training and Exam Development," is being revised to establish clear requirements for examination development and progress tracking methodology. The revision will:

- Establish requirements for NRC Examination Development Project schedule and milestones.
- Develop and implement a checklist for examination writers to address significant steps in the process including review of all applicable source documents.
- Add guidelines/requirements for Technical Reviews and examination Validation.
- Develop and implement checklists for Technical Reviewers and examination Validators.
- Specify a requirement for providing TAP-TQS-06 just-in-time training during the formation period of an NRC examination team including Technical Reviewers and Examination Validators.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Ronald Thurow, General Supervisor Operations Training, at (315) 349-1182 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Navin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael T. Navin  
Manager Training

MTN/cld