

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

FOR THE PALISADES INITIAL EXAMINATION - JULY/AUG 2003

June 3, 2003

Mr. Dell McNeil
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

**PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT
INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION**

Nuclear Management Company, LLC, is submitting the initial license examination for the Palisades Nuclear Plant, in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. The initial license examination is scheduled for July 21, 2003, through August 1, 2003. The following materials are enclosed:

- ES-301-3, "Operating Test Quality Checklist"
- ES-301-4, "Simulator Scenario Quality Checklist," final version
- ES-301-6, "Competencies Checklist," one for each group
- ES-401-7, "Written Exam Quality Checklist," one for Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) and one for Reactor Operator (RO)
- ES-301-2, "Control Room Systems and Facility Walk-through Test Outline," (updated)
- Certification of no duplication with audit exam
- 125 written exam questions, including distractor analysis, supporting references, and original form of bank question (as appropriate)
- 3 simulator scenarios (Scenario 1, Scenario 2, Scenario 3)
- 30 job performance measures (JPMs) (20 system, 10 administrative)
- CD-ROM with applicable Palisades references
- Hard copy of Technical Data Book

Pursuant to NUREG-1021, these materials shall be withheld from public disclosure until after the examinations are complete.

Please contact Darrell Hensley at (269) 764-2133, if you have any questions regarding this submittal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Douglas E. Cooper', written over a horizontal line.

Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice-President, Palisades

Enclosure



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

March 13, 2003

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice President
Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

Dear Mr. Cooper:

In a telephone conversation on March 7, 2003, between Mr. Greg Smith, Operations Initial License Training Supervisor and Mr. Dell McNeil, Reactor Inspector, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant the weeks of July 21, 2003 and July 28, 2003. In addition, the NRC will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of June 30, 2003.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations 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 May 5, 2003. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by June 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 examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. 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 at least 14 days before the first examination date.

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 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003.

The public reporting burden for this collection 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, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 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. Smith 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 Mr. McNeil at 630-829-9737, or me at 630-829-9631.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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 <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,



Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

See Attached Distribution

D. Cooper

-2-

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Sincerely,

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

See Attached Distribution

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cc: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Fossil and Hydro Operations
L. Lahti, Manager, Licensing
R. Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer, NMC
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
S. Wawro, Nuclear Asset Director, Consumers Energy Company
W. Rendell, Supervisor, Covert Township
Office of the Governor
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Attorney General (MI)
T. J. Brown, Training Department

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August 5, 2002

Mr. David E. Hills
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Operations Branch Chief
Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

PALISADES 2003 INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION DATES

Dear Mr. Hills:

Nuclear Management Company, LLC, (NMC) is hereby providing confirmation of the details transmitted by NRC letter dated February 14, 2002, concerning the next scheduled initial licensing examination for operator license applicants at the Palisades Nuclear Plant. An initial license examination is scheduled to be conducted during the weeks of July 21, 2003 and July 28, 2003. Twelve candidates, (eight Direct Senior Reactor Operators, and four Reactor Operators), are being prepared to take this examination.

The examination outline is scheduled to be submitted for review to Mr. David L. Pelton, Chief Examiner, by May 7, 2003. We understand that review of our submitted examination is tentatively scheduled to begin on May 26, 2003. Resources will be made available to assist your staff during examination validation, which will take place the week of June 30, 2003.

We look forward to working with you and your staff during the development, validation, approval, and administration of this examination. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence or require additional information, please contact Mr. Walt Nelson, Palisades Initial License Training Supervisor, at (616) 764-2348 or Mr. Gregg Baustian, Palisades Operations Training Supervisor, at (616) 764-2533.

Sincerely,

Laurie Lahti

Laurie A. Lahti
Manager, Licensing

AUG 13 2002

July 9, 2002

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT
VOLUNTARY RESPONSE TO NRC REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY 2002-09:
PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2002-09, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," requests that licensees submit, on a voluntary basis, an NRC Form 536, "Operator Licensing Examination Data." This form provides: A) Proposed Examination Preparation Schedule; B) Initial Operator License Examinations; and, C) Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule. The purpose of these estimates is to assist the NRC in budgeting and scheduling the use of its resources.

In response to this request, Nuclear Management Company, LLC, estimates have been completed for Palisades Nuclear Plant on NRC Form 536 and are attached.

SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS

This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.

Laurie Lahti

Laurie A. Lahti
Manager, Licensing

CC: ✓ Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, NRR, USNRC
Resident Inspector, USNRC - Palisades

Attachment

ATTACHMENT 1

**NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC
PALISADES PLANT
DOCKET 50-255**

July 2002

**NRC FORM 536
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DATA**

1 Page Follows

OPERATOR LICENSING
EXAMINATION DATA

Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6) US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 or by internet email to bjs1@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

FACILITY
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

NRC REGION III

DOCKET 50-255 LICENSE DPR-20 PALISADES PLANT

A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY2003	CY2004	CY2005	CY2006
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	1	0	1	1
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	0	0	0	0

B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY2003	CY2004	CY2005	CY2006
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS	3	0	6	6
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS-INSTANT	6	0	6	6
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS-UPGRADE	3	0	0	0
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS-LIMITED	0	0	0	0
PROPOSED DATES				
PRIMARY DATE	7/21/03 – 8/1/03	N/A	4/11/05 – 4/22/05	12/4/06 – 12/15/06
ALTERNATE DATE	None	N/A	None	None

C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY2004			CY2005		
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	12					12

February 14, 2002

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice President
Palisades Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

Dear Mr. Cooper:

In response to your facility management letter dated April 26, 2001, and as augmented by discussions with Walt Nelson of your staff on January 22, 2002, we have tentatively scheduled an initial licensing examination for your operator license applicants at the Palisades Nuclear Plant during the weeks of July 21 and July 28, 2003. Validation of the examination will occur at the station during the week of June 30, 2003. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

As stated in your letter, your staff will develop the examination. To support the examination administration date, we have tentatively scheduled the date of May 26, 2003, to begin our review of your submitted examination.

Your letter indicated you are training approximately 11 candidates for the examination. Please inform us if the number of candidates declines below 10 as this will impact the examination schedule. Please also inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you are unable to support the examination on the scheduled dates.

Once your staff has determined a schedule for examination development, please have them contact the Chief Examiner to arrange for a suitable examination outline submittal date for NRC review. The intent is for the examination outline to be submitted early in the examination development process. This is to preclude the need to make significant changes to developed examination material as a result of the NRC review of the outline.

David L. Pelton has been tentatively assigned as the Chief Examiner and can be reached at 630-829-9732

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the examination outlining examination security expectations, listing the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirming the examination dates, and reconfirming the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Hironori Peterson of my staff at 630-829-9707.

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Sincerely,



David E. Hills, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-255
License No. DPR-20

cc: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Fossil and Hydro Operations
L. Lahti, Manager, Licensing
R. Anderson, Chief Nuclear Officer, NMC
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company
S. Wawro, Nuclear Asset Director, Consumers Energy Company
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cc: ~~AA~~ ~~Beddy~~
N. Peterson

A CMS Energy Company

Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043

Tel 616 764 2276
Fax: 616 764 3265

Nathan L. Haskell
Director, Licensing and
Performance Assessment

April 26, 2001

David E. Hills, Chief, Operator Licensing Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT
PALISADES YEAR 2003 INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION DATES

Dear Mr. Hills:

The purpose of this letter is to reserve dates for our Initial License examinations in the year 2003. Consumers Energy personnel will prepare this examination in accordance with NUREG 1021 (latest revision authorized for use) and support NRC staff in exam administration. We request that our Year 2003 NRC Initial License examinations be scheduled for the weeks of April 14, 2003 and April 21, 2003. Additional resources will be available to assist NRC staff during examination validation which we propose to be the week of March 24, 2003. The number of candidates anticipated is eleven: one Upgrade SRO; six Instant SROs; and, four ROs.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Walt Nelson at (616) 764-2348 or Mr. Tim Blake at (616) 764-2364.


Nathan L. Haskell

Director, Licensing and Performance Assessment

CC Document Control Desk, USNRC
Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, NRR, USNRC
NRC Resident Inspector - Palisades

MAY 02 2001