



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

November 14, 2003

Duke Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Ronald A. Jones
Vice President
Oconee Site
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION INITIAL RETAKE
EXAMINATION REPORT 05000269/2003302, 05000270/2003302 AND
05000287/2003302

Dear Mr. Jones:

On October 17, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered a simulator portion of the examination to two employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Oconee Nuclear Plant (one Reactor Operator (RO) and one Senior Reactor Operator (SRO)). The NRC waived the written and the walkthrough portions of the examination for both applicants based on satisfactory performance on a previous NRC examination. At the conclusion of the examination, the examiners discussed the examination and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. Both applicants passed the simulator examination. There were no post examination comments.

No findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 562-4638.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael E. Ernstes, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosure: (See page 2)

DEC

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Enclosure: Report Details

cc w/encl:

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287

License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Report Nos.: 05000269/2003302, 05000270/2003302 and
05000287/2003302

Licensee: Duke Energy Corporation

Facility: Oconee Nuclear Station

Location: 7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

Date: Operating Tests - October 17, 2003

Examiners: Kathleen O'Donohue, Senior Reactor Inspector
Richard Baldwin, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: Michael E. Ernstes, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000269/2003302, ER 05000270/2003302, ER 05000287/2003302; 10/17/03; Oconee Nuclear Station; Licensed Operator Examinations.

NRC examiners conducted an Initial License Retake examination in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, Draft Revision, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements identified in 10 CFR §55.45.

The NRC administered the Simulator portion of the examination to one Reactor Operator (RO) and one Senior Reactor Operator (SRO). The scenarios were developed by the licensee. The NRC waived the written and the walkthrough portions of the examination for both applicants. Both applicants passed and were issued a license.

No significant issues were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The examiners reviewed the simulator scenarios developed by the licensee for compliance with the guidelines specified in NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Draft Revision 9. The examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made according to NUREG-1021 and incorporated into the final version of the examination materials.

The examiners reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations to ensure examination security and integrity complied with 10 CFR 55.49, Integrity of examinations and tests.

The examiners evaluated one Reactor Operator (RO) applicant and one Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicant who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests on October 17, 2003. The evaluations of the applicants and review of documentation were performed to determine if the applicants met requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

While performing scenario validation on the examination material, the licensee inadvertently left exam material inadequately secured. The simulator operation instructions for one of the exam scenarios was left unattended in the simulator over a period of days. The instructions contained sufficient information on the scenario to compromise several of the scenario component failures. The licensee regained control of the material and notified the NRC. The NRC reviewed the details of this incident and determined that it was a potential compromise to the exam. The compromised information was deleted from the scenario, it was replaced with new component failures and the revised scenario was validated. The issue was documented in the licensee's problem identification process as PIP #O-03-06125.

The licensee's examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. One RO and one SRO passed the operating examinations. There were no post examination comments.

40A6 MeetingsExit Meeting Summary

On October 17, 2003, the examination team discussed generic issues with Mr. Regis Repko and members of his staff. The inspectors asked the licensee whether any materials examined during the inspection should be considered proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee personnel

R. Repko, Operations Superintendent
N. Clarkson, Senior Engineer
J. Steely, Initial Training Supervisor
N. Constance, Operations Training Manager
M. Hill, Operations Shift Manager
G. Washburn, nuclear instructor
R. Robinson, Nuclear Shift Supervisor
P. Gillespie, Shift Operations Manager