

January 21, 2004

Mr. Fred R. Dacimo
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Northeast
Indian Point Energy Center
295 Broadway, Suite 1
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, NY 10511-0249

SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER, UNIT 3 SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 05000286/2003303

Dear Mr. Dacimo:

This report transmits the results of the senior reactor operator (SRO) licensing examination conducted by the NRC during the period of December 8 to 11, 2003. This examination addressed areas important to public health and safety and was developed and administered using the guidelines of the "Examination Standards for Power Reactors" (NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9).

Based on the results of the examination, three SROs passed all portions of the examination and one SRO failed the operating portion of the examination. The four applicants included three SRO instants and one SRO upgrade. Mr. A. Blamey discussed performance insights observed during the examination with Mr. L. Cortopassio on December 11, 2003. On January 12, 2004, final examination results, including individual license numbers, were given during a telephone call between Mr. A. Blamey and Mr. Lou Cortopassio.

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). These records include the final examination and are available in ADAMS (SRO Written - Accession Number ML040140163; SRO Operating Section A - Accession Number ML040120853; SRO Operating Section B - Accession Number ML040120857; and SRO Operating Section C - Accession Number ML040120862), and ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Mr. Fred R. Dacimo

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Should you have any questions regarding this examination, please contact me at (610) 337-5183, or by E-mail at RJC@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-286
License No. DPR-64

Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 05000286/2003303

cc w/encl:

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Mr. Fred R. Dacimo

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No: 50-286

License No: DPR-64

Report No: 05000286/2003303

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Northeast

Facility: Indian Point Energy Center, Unit 3

Dates: December 8 - 10, 2003 (Operating Test Administration)
December 11, 2003 (Written Examination Administration)
December 12, 2003 - January 9, 2004 (Examination Grading)
December 19, 2003, (Licensee Grading Submittal)

Examiners: Alan Blamey, Senior Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner)
Joseph D'Antonio, Operations Engineer
Donald Jackson, Operations Engineer (Examiner in Training)
Peter Presby, Operations Engineer (Examiner in Training)

Approved by: Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000286/2003-303; 12/8 - 12/11/03; Indian Point Energy Center, Unit 3; Initial Operator Licensing Examination. Three of four applicants passed the examination (2 SRO instants, and 1SRO upgrade).

The written examinations were administered by the facility and the operating tests were administered by four NRC region-based examiners, two under instruction. There were no inspection findings of significance associated with the examinations.

A. Inspector Identified Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

B. Licensee Identified Findings

None.

Report Details

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Mitigating Systems - Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) Initial License Examination

a. Scope of Review

The NRC examination team developed the written and operating initial examination and together with Indian Point Energy Center, Unit 3 training and operations personnel verified or ensured, as applicable, the following:

- The examination was prepared and developed in accordance with the guidelines of Draft Revision 9, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." A review was conducted both in the Region I office and at the Indian Point Energy Center, Unit 3 plant and training facility. Final resolution of comments and incorporation of test revisions were conducted during and following the onsite preparation week.
- Simulation facility operation was proper.
- A test item analysis was completed on the written examination for feedback into the systems approach to training program.
- Examination security requirements were met.

The NRC examiners administered the operating portion of the examination to all applicants from December 8 - 10, 2003. The written examination was administered by the Indian Point Energy Center, Unit 3 training staff on December 11, 2003.

b. Findings

Grading and Results

Three of four applicants (2 SRO Upgrades and 1 SRO Instant) passed all portions of the initial licensing examination.

The facility had no post-examination comments.

Examination Administration and Performance

Two apparent generic applicant weaknesses were identified during the NRC's administration of the operating exam. The observed weaknesses were in the area of emergency planning and operation of refueling equipment.

Enclosure

1. Emergency Plan - Protective Action Recommendations

All applicants failed to correctly completed Form EP-1, Rev. 1, "New York State Radiological Emergency Data Form, Indian Point Energy Center," to communicate the protective action recommendations to the state and local governments. The applicants did not correctly denote to SHELTER all remaining Emergency Response Planning Areas (ERPAs) that were not evacuated.

2. Operation of Refueling Equipment - Respond to Lowering Cavity Level

Three of four applicants demonstrated some knowledge weaknesses in the operation of refueling components and their locations. These applicants were not able to demonstrate proper operation of the spent fuel pool isolation gate and fuel transfer tube gate valve and, in some cases, were not able to locate the equipment. Based on these observations it appears that these applicants would not have been able to correctly respond to a lowering cavity level in a timely manner.

Indian Point Energy Center has documented these issues in condition report CR-IP3-2004-00110 and will provide remedial training to ensure that applicants can correctly implement form EP-1 and respond to a lowering cavity level during refueling operations. These actions will be completed before the applicants perform licenced duties on shift.

40A6 Meetings, including Exit

On January 12, 2004, the NRC provided conclusions and examination results to the Indian Point Energy Center, Unit 3 management representatives via telephone. License numbers for two of the three applicants that passed all portions of the initial licensing examination were also provided during this time. The license number for the one remaining applicant that passed the initial licensing examination was withheld pending completion of his six months of on site operator experience. Mr. Robert Christman was informed that when the NRC is notified, in writing, that this training requirement has been completed by this one individual, his license will be issued. One applicant passed the written examination but failed the administrative portion of the operating initial licensing examination and is therefore denied a license at this time.

The NRC expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance that was provided during the preparation and administration of the examination by the licensee's training staff.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

Robert Christman Superintendent, Operator Training
Rober Highdecker Operations Training

NRC Personnel

Alan Blamey Senior Operations Engineer
Joseph D'Antonio Operations Engineer
Donald Jackson Operations Engineer (Examiner in Training)
Peter Presby Operations Engineer (Examiner in Training)

LIST OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

<u>ITEM NUMBER</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
NONE		