



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

April 5, 2004

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION -
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT 05000390/2004-301**

Dear Mr. Scalice:

During telephone conversations on March 15, 2004, and April 5, 2004, between Mr. Randy Evans, Operator Training Manager and Mr. Lee R. Miller, Senior Operations Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The operating tests will be administered during the week of July 26, 2004. The written examination will be administered during the week of July 19, 2004. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of July 12, 2004.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examination based on the guidelines in Draft Revision 9 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. Your staff will also provide copying services for administering the exam.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by May 7, 2004. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by June 8, 2004. 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 examination 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 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 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 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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures 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).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Randy Evans 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 Lee R. Miller at (404) 562-4676, (Internet E-mail: LRM@NRC.GOV), George Hopper at (404) 562-4645, (Internet E-mail: GTH1@NRC.GOV), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: MEE@NRC.GOV).

Sincerely,

/RA By H. Christensen For/

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

Docket Nos. 50-390,
License Nos. NPF-90

cc: (See page 3)

(cc cont'd)

Karl W. Singer
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

James E. Maddox, Vice President
Engineering and Technical Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

William R. Lagergren
Site Vice President
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Michael J. Fecht, Acting General Manager
Nuclear Assurance
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Mark J. Burzynski, Manager
Nuclear Licensing
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Paul L. Pace, Manager
Licensing and Industry Affairs
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

Larry S. Bryant, Plant Manager
Watts Bar Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Executive
Rhea County Courthouse
375 Church Street, Suite 215
Dayton, TN 37321-1300

County Executive
Meigs County Courthouse
Decatur, TN 37322

Lawrence E. Nanney, Director
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
Division of Radiological Health
Electronic Mail Distribution

Ann Harris
341 Swing Loop
Rockwood, TN 37854

James H. Bassham, Director
Tennessee Emergency Management
Agency
Electronic Mail Distribution

Jack W. Cox
Training Manager
Watts Bar Training Center
P. O. Box 2000
Spring City, TN 37381

Distribution:

M. Chernoff, NRR
 C. Evans (Part 72 Only)
 L. Slack, RII EICS
 RIDSNRRDIPMLIPB
 PUBLIC

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS	RII:DRP			
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA By HChristensen for/	/RA By SShaeffer for/			
NAME	LMiller:pmd	MErnstes	SCahill			
DATE	4/5/04	April 7, 2004	April 7, 2004			
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
PUBLIC DOCUMENT	YES NO					