



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

April 16, 2004

Garry L. Randolph, Senior Vice
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Union Electric Company
P.O. Box 620
Fulton, MO 65251

SUBJECT: CALLAWAY PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT 50-483/2004-301

Dear Mr. Randolph:

On March 4, 2004, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator licensing examination at the Callaway Plant. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on March 4, 2004, with Mr. Warren Witt, Plant Manager and other members of your staff.

The examination included an evaluation of four applicants for operator licenses and six applicants for senior operator licenses. The written and operating examinations were developed using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Draft Revision 9. The license examiners determined that all applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-483
License: NPF-30

Union Electric Company

-2-

Enclosure:
NRC Examination Report
50-483/2004-301

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-3-

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ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Dockets.: 50-483
License: NPF-30
Report No.: 50-483/2004-301
Licensee: Union Electric Company
Facility: Callaway Plant
Location: Junction Highway CC and Highway O
Fulton, Missouri
Dates: March 1-4, 2004
Inspectors: G. Johnston, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
T. Stetka, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
M. Haire, Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
K. Clayton, Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
Approved By: A. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000483/2004-301 on March 1-4, 2004; Callaway Plant, initial operator licensing examination.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of four applicants for operator licenses and six applicants for senior operator licenses. The licensee and the NRC developed the examination using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Draft Revision 9. The licensee provided proctors for the administration of the written examination to all applicants on February 26, 2004, in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating test on March 1-4, 2004.

No findings of significance were identified.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

40A4 Initial License Examination

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

The NRC examination team administered the operating test to the nine applicants on March 1-4, 2004. The reactor operator applicants participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of one task in each of four areas. The three applicants for upgrading their operator license to a senior operator license participated in one scenario and took a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of five system tasks. The senior operator applicants seeking an instant license participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks. The administrative test for all senior operator applicants consisted of performing tasks in five areas.

On February 26, 2004, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all nine applicants and forwarded the proposed grades together with the performance analysis to the NRC for approval.

b. Findings

All applicants passed all parts of the examinations. For the written examinations, the average score for the operator applicants was 84 percent, and the average score for senior operator applicants was 86 percent. The operator applicant scores ranged from 81.33 to 88 percent, and the senior operator applicant scores ranged from 83 to 89 percent.

The licensee conducted a performance analysis for the written examinations with emphasis on 14 questions missed by half or more of the applicants. After reviewing the licensee's analysis, the examiners concluded that all questions were valid and that there were only minor training deficiencies requiring the licensee to address in its corrective action program. Licensee personnel indicated that any training deficiencies would also be reviewed to determine impact on licensed operator requalification training. There were no post-examination comments provided on examination questions. The text of the examination questions and the performance analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the attachment.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The licensee developed the operating and written test in accordance with NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9. Licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination development were on a security agreement.

.2.1 Operating Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Examination Scope

The licensee staff completed the operating test outlines on November 7, 2003. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9. The draft examination package was reviewed by the NRC on January 8, 2004. Examiners reviewed the licensee's comments against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9, and provided comments to the licensee on January 22, 2004. The chief examiner conducted an onsite validation of the examinations and provided further comments during the week of February 9, 2004.

b. Findings

Examiners approved the initial examination outline with minor comments and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

The chief examiner determined that the operating test initially submitted by the licensee staff were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2.2 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The examination team observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

2.3 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during the onsite preparation and examination administration weeks with respect to NUREG-1021 requirements. Written plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

On March 4, 2004, the examiners presented the examination results to Mr. Warren Witt and other members of your staff who acknowledged the findings. The inspectors confirmed that proprietary information was not provided or reviewed during the examination process.

ATTACHMENT

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee personnel

D. Neterer, Superintendent Operations
P. McKenna, Assistant Superintendent Operations
W. Witt, Plant Manager
B. Moody, Senior Training Supervisor, Operations
B. Barton, Assistant Supt Operations
D. Hopkins, Operating Supervisor, Training
R. Roseilus, Superintendent Training
S. Putthoff, License Training

NRC personnel

F. Brush, Senior Resident Inspector, Wolf Creek

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No.: ML040960531 - Reactor and Senior operator written examination

Accession No.: ML040960591 - Written examination performance analysis and applicant questions