



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

May 20, 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: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT  
05000259/2004301, 05000260/2004301, AND 05000296/2004301

Dear Mr. Scalice:

During the period April 26 -30, 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating tests to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. At the conclusion of the examination, the examiners discussed the examination questions and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on April 23, 2004.

Four Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the written examination and operating tests. One SRO applicant failed the overall portion of the written examination. One SRO applicant failed both portions of the written examination and the simulator portion of the operating test. There were no post examination comments submitted.

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).

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. 50-259, 50-260, 50-296  
License Nos. DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Enclosure: (See page 2)

Enclosure: Report Details

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 05000259, 05000260, 05000296

License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Report Nos.: 05000259/2004301, 05000260/2004301, and  
05000296/2004301

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority

Facility: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 & 3

Location: 10833 Shaw RD  
Athens, AL 35611

Dates: Operating Tests - April 26 -30, 2004  
Written Examination - April 23, 2004

Examiners: R. Aiello, Senior Operations Engineer  
T. Kolb, Operations Examiner

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

Enclosure

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

ER 05000259/2004301, 05000260/2004301, and 05000296/2004301; April 23 -30, 2004; Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, & 3; Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC examiners conducted operator licensing initial examinations in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements identified in 10 CFR §55.43 and §55.45.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period of April 26 -30, 2004 to six applicants. Members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on April 23, 2004. The operator licensing initial written examination was developed by the NRC. The operating tests and outlines were developed by the Browns Ferry training staff. Four SRO applicants passed both the written examination and operating tests. One SRO applicant failed the overall portion of the written examination. One SRO applicant failed both portions of the written examination and the simulator portion of the operating test. There were no post examination comments submitted.

## Report Details

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

#### **4OA5** Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

##### a. Inspection Scope

The NRC and the licensee developed written and operating examinations respectively in accordance with the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Draft Revision 9. The NRC examination team reviewed the proposed examination. 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 six SRO applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests during the period of April 26 -30, 2004. Members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on April 23, 2004. The evaluations of the applicants and review of documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, met the requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55.

##### b. Findings

One scenario set and one JPM were transmitted in a manner that it did not meet the guidance of NUREG-1021, Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors, Draft Revision 9, ES 201, Attachment 1, Physical Security Guidelines. When the facility electronically transmitted a portion of the operating test, one JPM and one scenario outline were not password protected. These items were modified during the prep week.

The licensee's operating test submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. One SRO applicant failed the overall portion of the written examination. One SRO applicant failed both portions of the written examination and the simulator portion of the operating test. The licensee submitted no post examination comments concerning the written examination. The written examination and answer key, may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Number ML041260465)

**40A6** MeetingsExit Meeting Summary

On April 30, 2004, the examination team discussed generic issues with Mr. Skaggs and members of his staff. The examiners 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

T. Albright, Simulator Engineering Manager  
B. Caballero, HLT Lead Instructor  
P. Chadwell, Operations Support Superintendent  
T. Chin, Operations Training Manager  
R. Knight, Instructor, Operations Training  
J. Lewis, Operations Manager  
R. Moye, Lead Examiner  
D. Sanchez, Site Training Manager  
M. Skaggs, Plant Manager  
J. Wallace, Site Licensing Engineer