

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

FOR THE D. C. COOK INITIAL EXAMINATION - MARCH 2004

November 30, 2001

Mr. M. Rencheck
Vice President
Nuclear Engineering
American Electric Power Company
Cook Nuclear Plant
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106

**SUBJECT: CALENDAR YEAR 2003 SCHEDULING OF NRC REGION III LICENSED
OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS**

Dear Mr. Rencheck:

The purpose of this letter is to enlist your support in the scheduling of calendar year 2003 initial licensed operator examinations in NRC Region III. The enclosure of this letter lists requests received from Region III facility licensees for licensed operator examinations for that calendar year. A large number of those examination requests fall within the months of September through December 2003. In addition, Region III facility licensees have provided us with projected dates during which they would expect to conduct licensed operator requalification examinations during that year. This information indicates that the NRC operator licensing staff would need to conduct six of the eight calendar year 2003 Region III licensed operator requalification baseline inspections during those same months. Consequently, the projected workload for the Region III operator licensing examiners during the final quarter of calendar year 2003 will be difficult to accomplish.

We have contacted the other NRC regional and headquarters offices to ascertain the availability of qualified examiners from outside Region III. Based on current projections, we can accommodate the majority of the exams near the requested dates, but will have to schedule several exams approximately two months prior to or beyond the requested quarter. Before we finalize the calendar year 2003 exam dates, we want to provide you the opportunity to re-evaluate your training and examination schedule and determine whether you can realign your request to outside the fourth calendar quarter of 2003. Please contact us to revise or reaffirm your request by calling Mr. David Hills (630-829-9733) of my staff within fifteen days of the date of this letter. We will proceed with scheduling the calendar year 2003 examinations after December 15, 2001.

M. Rencheck

-2-

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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

Enclosure: List of 2003 Examinations Requested

cc w/encl: A. C. Bakken III, Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
J. Pollock, Plant Manager
M. Rencheck, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists
B. Wallace, Training Department

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M. Bies (Concurrence Copy)

February 18, 2002

Mr. A. C. Bakken III
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107-1395

Dear Mr. Bakken:

Per discussions with Mick Brown of your staff on January 24, 2002, we have tentatively scheduled an initial licensing examination for your operator license applicants at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant during the weeks of March 15 and March 20, 2004. Validation of the examination will occur at the station during the week of February 23, 2004. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

As agreed upon in a telephone conversation on January 24, 2002, your staff will develop the examination. To support the examination administration date, we have tentatively scheduled the date of February 9, 2004, to begin our review of your submitted examination.

Your letter indicated you are training approximately 12 candidates for the examination. Please inform us if the number of candidates declines below 10 as this will impact the examination schedule. Please also inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you are unable to support the examination on the scheduled dates.

Once your staff has determined a schedule for examination development, please have them contact the Chief Examiner to arrange for a suitable examination outline submittal date for NRC review. The intent is for the examination outline to be submitted early in the examination development process. This is to preclude the need to make significant changes to developed examination material as a result of the NRC review of the outline. Michael E. Bielby has been tentatively assigned as the Chief Examiner and can be reached at 630-829-9762.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the examination outlining examination security expectations, listing the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirming the examination dates, and reconfirming the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Michael E. Bielby of my staff at 630-829-9762.

ML 0205 10083

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,



David E. Hills, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

- cc: J. Pollock, Plant Manager
- M. Rencheck, Vice President, Strategic Business Improvements
- R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Emergency Management Division
- MI Department of State Police
- D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists
- B. Wallace, Training Department

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

July 16, 2003

Mr. A. C. Bakken III
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL/REQUALIFICATION OPERATOR LICENSE
EXAMINATIONS: DC COOK STATION

Dear Mr. Bakken,

In a telephone conversation on June 19, 2003, between Mr. D. McNeil of my staff and Mr. T. Werk, ILT Lead Instructor, an initial operator license examination was tentatively scheduled to occur during the weeks of March 15, 2004 and March 22, 2004. On-site validation of the examination will occur at the station approximately 3 weeks before the examination administration. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

We confirmed with Mr. Werk that your staff will develop the examination. Mr. Werk indicated that you are training approximately 20 candidates for the examination. Please inform us if the number of candidates declines below 10 as this will impact the examination schedule. Mr. Werk confirmed that the week of March 1, 2004, scheduled for the biennial requalification program inspection (IP 71111.11B), was still within the anticipated requalification examination administration cycle. Please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you need to change the scheduled dates for either of the examinations.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the initial examination informing them of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination dates, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mr. C. Phillips of my staff at 630-829-9739.

ML03090259

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lanksbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

cc: J. Pollock, Site Vice President
M. Finissi, Plant Manager
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists
C. Jones, Training Department

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Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

- cc: J. Pollock, Site Vice President
- M. Finissi, Plant Manager
- R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Emergency Management Division
- MI Department of State Police
- D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists
- C. Jones, Training Department

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D. C. Trimble, NRR:DIPM:IOLB

M. A. Bies, DRS



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 6, 2003

Mr. M. Nazar
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
American Electric Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107

Dear Mr. Nazar:

In a telephone conversation on November 4, 2003, between Mr. I. Fleetwood, Initial Operator License Examination Lead, and Mr. M. Bielby, NRC Chief Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant the weeks of March 15, 2004 and March 22, 2004. In addition, the NRC will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of February 23, 2004.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1, 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.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by December 31, 2003. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by January 30, 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 examinations 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 first 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 first 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 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, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 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.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. I. Fleetwood 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 M. Bielby at 630-829-9762, or me at 630-829-9631.

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Sincerely,



Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

See Attached Distribution

M. Nazar

-3-

cc: Site Vice President
M. Finissi, Plant Manager
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists
C. Jones, Training Department

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Sincerely,

/RD

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-315; 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58; DPR-74

See Attached Distribution

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DATE	11/4/03	11/6/03	11/6/03		

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cc: Site Vice President
M. Finissi, Plant Manager
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Emergency Management Division
MI Department of State Police
D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists
C. Jones, Training Department

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American Electric Power
Cook Nuclear Plant Training Center
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106
616 465 5901



Mike Bielby
NRC Chief Examiner
NRC Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532

March 30, 2004

Dear Mr. Bielby:

Pursuant to NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, section ES-403, Grading Initial Site-Specific Written Examination, the Cook Operations Training staff performed an independent grading and evaluation on the four (4) SRO candidates and the nine (9) RO candidates that took the NRC approved written examination administered on March 29, 2004. Our results indicated that all thirteen (13) candidates passed the examination with a minimum score of 83% being recorded.

Based upon our post examination review and evaluation of questions missed, all 100 questions as administered on the RO and SRO examinations were deemed valid and technically correct. Our review process identified eight (8) questions that were missed by 50% or greater of the candidates requiring a training program evaluation to address the knowledge deficiencies noted.

The DC Cook Facility is submitting NO comments to the questions under review based upon the results of our post examination evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ronald J. Sieber'.

Ronald J. Sieber
DC Cook Operations Training Manager

*Delivered in person
on 03-30-2004,
mal*