

August 17, 2004

Mr. Thomas Coutu
Site Vice President
Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
N490 Hwy 42
Kewaunee, WI 54216-9511

SUBJECT: RE-SCHEDULE OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE RE-TAKE EXAMINATION

Dear Mr. Coutu:

In a telephone conversation on August 5, 2004, between Mr. Walter Hunt, Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Training Manager, and Mr. Dell McNeil, Reactor Engineer, arrangements were made to re-schedule the administration of a re-take initial license examination at the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant. The proposed re-take written examination submitted to the NRC in July 2004 contained a significant number of questions that were not acceptable for use on an NRC initial license examination. The chief examiner assigned to this re-take examination determined that the proposed examination could not be revised and all quality reviews completed in time to meet the originally scheduled examination date during the week of August 16, 2004. The examination was rescheduled to occur during the week of November 15, 2004.

Mr. Hunt requested we change the examination development guidelines from those contained in Revision 8 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," to those contained in Draft Revision 9 of NUREG 1021. The request to change to the newer standard was accepted, and, accordingly, your staff will develop the re-take examination using the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG 1021. In order to comply with the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG 1021, a new examination outline (Form ES-401-2, "PWR Examination Outline") and quality review sheet (Form ES-201-2, "Examination Outline Quality Checklist") must be submitted as soon as possible. A review of the proposed examination changes and NRC clarification of the unacceptable questions will take place in a meeting in the NRC Region III offices in Lisle, Illinois, between members of the Kewaunee Plant training department and Mr. Michael Bielby, Chief Examiner, on September 14, 2004. During the telephone conversation with Mr. Hunt, it was agreed that your staff will delete, replace, or rework the unacceptable written examination questions on the proposed examination and re-submit the proposed examination on October 18, 2004. The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary to the examination after that proposed examination is reviewed. The final examination with all requested changes incorporated will be due in the Region III offices during the week of November 8, 2004.

In summary: (1) a new written examination outline must be sent to the chief examiner as soon as possible; (2) there will be a meeting between NRC examiners and your training staff in the Lisle, Illinois, NRC office to discuss examination specifics on September 14, 2004; (3) the proposed examination will be re-submitted to the NRC chief examiner during the week of October 18, 2004; and (4) all requested corrections will be completed and a final examination submitted to the NRC during the week of November 8, 2004. A separate letter will be sent to the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant training manager authorizing administration of the approved examination as we approach the proposed examination date.

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 a preliminary reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), a medical certification (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and the applicant's waiver requests (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the examination date. If the application is not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. A signed application 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. 20503-0001.

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. Hunt 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 Dell McNeil at 630-829-9737, Michael Bielby at 630-829-9762, or me at 630-829-9631.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-305
License No. DPR-43

cc: J. Cowan, Executive Vice President,
Chief Nuclear Officer
Plant Manager
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
J. Rogoff, Vice President, Counsel & Secretary
D. Molzahn, Nuclear Asset Manager,
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
L. Weyers, Chairman, President and CEO,
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
D. Zellner, Chairman, Town of Carlton
J. Kitsembel, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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D. Zellner, Chairman, Town of Carlton
J. Kitsemel, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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