



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

September 3, 2004

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

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT  
NO. 05000390/2004301

Dear Mr. Singer:

During the period July 26-30, 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating test to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Watts Bar 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 July 23, 2004.

Four reactor operator (RO) and three senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants passed both the initial written examination and operating test. One SRO passed the initial written examination, but failed the operating test. A Simulation Facility Report is included in this report as Enclosure 2. There were no post examination comments.

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).

Sincerely,

***/RA By L. Mellen For/***

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

Docket No.: 50-390  
License No.: NPF-90

Enclosures: (See page 2)

Enclosures: 1. Report Details  
2. Simulation Facility Report

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No.: 05000390

License No.: NPF-90

Report No.: 05000390/2004301

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Facility: Watts Bar Nuclear Plant

Location: 1260 Nuclear Plant Road  
Spring City TN 37381

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

Examiners: L. Miller, Chief Examiner  
T. Stetka, Senior Operations Engineer  
G. Laska, Senior Operations Examiner

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

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000390/2004301, Tennessee Valley Authority; 07/26/2004 - 07/30/2004; Watts Bar Nuclear Plant; Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC examiners conducted operator licensing initial examinations in accordance with the guidance of Examiner Standards, NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9. This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements of 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period July 26-30, 2004. Members of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant training staff administered the initial written examination on July 23, 2004. The operator licensing initial written examinations and operating tests were developed by the licensee. Four reactor operator (RO) and three senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants passed both the initial written examination and operating test. One SRO passed the written examination, but failed the operating test. The four reactor operators and three senior reactor operators who passed both the initial written examination and operating test were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

No significant issues were identified.

## Report Details

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

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

##### a. Inspection Scope

The examiners reviewed the written and operating examinations developed by the licensee for compliance with the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9.

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 four RO and four SRO applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. They were administered the operating tests during the period July 26-30, 2004. Members of the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on July 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 Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, met requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55.

##### b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

Four RO and three SRO applicants passed both the initial written examination and operating test. One SRO passed the initial written examination, but failed the operating test. The licensee did not submit any post examination comments concerning the initial written examination or operating test. The initial written examinations, answer keys, and references may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Number ML042160492, ML042160484, ML042160498).

#### **4OA6** Meetings

##### Exit Meeting Summary

On July 30, 2004, the Chief Examiner discussed generic applicant performance and examination development issues with members of licensee management.

The inspectors 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

T. Wallace, Operations Manager  
R. O'Rear, Operations Superintendent  
J. Rodin, Training Manager  
R. Evans, Operations Training  
P. Pace, Site Quality Manager

### NRC

J. Bartley, Senior Resident Inspector  
J. Reece, Resident Inspector

## SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Watts Bar Nuclear Station

Facility Docket No.: 05000390

Operating Tests Administered on: July 26-30, 2004

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information that may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

While conducting the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Chem 7 screen	When all 3 crews attempted to monitor RCS leakage using Chem 7 screen for 1-RE-90-119 Response/Leak Rate Conversion, the initial response took several minutes.
Breaker trip for 1-M-3	After the start of scenario, but before the first event, a simulator power supply breaker trip section of MCB caused a loss of indication for condensate, feedwater, and auxiliary feedwater. The examination was delayed about 30 minutes and was restarted from the beginning.