

July 6th, 2006

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On June 30, 2006 a review of the WSUNRC requalification plan revealed that an SRO had not completed an annual operations test within the 15 month required timeframe. A subsequent thorough review of the requalification plan revealed no other errors.

Per section two of the WSUNRC requalification plan: "An annual operations test shall be administered to each RO and SRO at intervals not to exceed 15 months..." The operator last successfully passed an operations exam on 3/17/05. On 6/17/06, the individual went beyond the 15 month requirement of the requalification plan. As the plan is currently written, there are no repercussions for violating the 15 month limitation, only for failing the annual exam.

Per 10 CFR 55.59 (a.1) the requirement for performance of the operations exam is 24 months. On 7/5/06 the individual successfully completed an operations examination and as such, the 24 month requirement of 10 CFR 55.59 has not been violated. On 7/6/06 training was held for all qualified operators regarding the requirements of the WSUNRC requalification plan and 10 CFR 55.59.

The cause of the error was, in part, due to turnover in staff and a lack of complete turnover in control of the requalification plan between staff. To correct this problem in the future, the annual operations exams will be scheduled such that all qualified operators will take the exam in the same month (March) and the exam will be added to the yearly administrative surveillance checklist.

The WSUNRC requalification plan shall be modified as follows to help correct situations in which the operations exam has not been completed in the required timeframe:

Section 2 "Annual Operations Test" add subsection "C" to read:

"C. Operators who do not meet the 15 month requirement shall take the annual operations test as soon as practically possible. In addition, the operator in question shall receive documented training on the WSUNRC Requalification Plan and 10 CFR 55.59".

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the WSUNRC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Wall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Donald Wall, Director

Cc: Marvin Mendonca, USNRC
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