



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

August 2, 2006

Duke Energy Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Bruce H. Hamilton
Vice President
Oconee Site
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
05000269/2006301, 05000270/2006301, AND 05000287/2006301

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

During the period June 19 - 28, 2006, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating examinations to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Oconee Nuclear Power Station. 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 June 30, 2006.

Four Reactor Operator (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the written examination and operating test. Two SRO applicants failed the written examination. There were no post examination comments submitted. A Simulation Facility Report is included in this report as Enclosure 2.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 562-4647.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James H. Moorman, III, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosures: (See next page)

Enclosures: 1. Report Details
2. Simulation Facility Report

cc w/encls:

B. G. Davenport
Compliance Manager (ONS)
Duke Energy Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

Lisa Vaughn
Associate General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street
Mail Code EC 07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

Timika Shafeek-Horton
Assistant General Counsel
Duke Energy Corporation
526 South Church Street-EC07H
Charlotte, NC 28202

David A. Repka
Winston & Strawn LLP
Electronic Mail Distribution

Beverly Hall, Acting Director
Division of Radiation Protection
N. C. Department of Environmental
Health & Natural Resources
Electronic Mail Distribution

Henry J. Porter, Assistant Director
Div. of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S. C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. Mike Gandy
Division of Radioactive Waste Mgmt.
S. C. Department of Health and
Environmental Control
Electronic Mail Distribution

County Supervisor of
Oconee County
415 S. Pine Street
Walhalla, SC 29691-2145

Lyle Graber, LIS
NUS Corporation
Electronic Mail Distribution

R. L. Gill, Jr., Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Issues
and Industry Affairs
Duke Energy Corporation
526 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28201-0006

Charles Brinkman
Director, Washington Operations
Westinghouse Electric Company
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Dean M. Hubbard
Training Manager
Oconee Nuclear Station
7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672-0752

Distribution w/encls:

L. Olshan, NRR
C. Evans (Part 72 Only)
L. Slack, RII EICS
OE Mail (email address if applicable)
RIDSNNRRDIRS
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James H. Moorman, III, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Enclosures: (See next page)

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: _____

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS	RII:DRS	RII:DRS	RII:DRP		
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA By MBates for/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/		
NAME	MBates	RAiello	SRose	JMoorman	MErnstes		
DATE	7/28/06	7/31/06	7/31/06	8/1/06	8/1/06		
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287

License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

Report No.: 05000269/2006301, 05000270/2006301, 05000287/2006301

Licensee: Duke Energy Corporation

Facility: Oconee Nuclear Station

Location: 7800 Rochester Highway
Seneca, SC 29672

Dates: Operating Tests - June 19-28, 2006
Written Examination - June 30, 2006

Examiners: M. Bates, Chief, Senior Operations Examiner
R. Aiello, Senior Operations Engineer
S. Rose, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: James H. Moorman, III, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000269/2006301, 05000270/2006301, 05000287/2006301; 6/19-28/2006,6/30/2006; Oconee Nuclear Station; Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC examiners conducted operator licensing initial examinations in accordance with the guidance in NUREG-1021, Revision 9, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." 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 of June 19 - 28, 2006. Members of the Oconee Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on June 30, 2006. The written examinations were developed by the NRC, and the operating tests were developed by the Oconee Nuclear Station training staff.

Four Reactor Operators (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operators (SRO) passed both the operating test and written examination. Two SRO applicants failed the written examination overall, and one of these two applicants also failed the SRO portion of that examination. Each applicant who passed the operating test and written examination with an overall score greater than 82% and SRO-only score greater than 74%, as applicable, was issued an operator license commensurate with the level of examination administered. Four SRO applicants passed the operating test, but passed the written examination with overall scores between 80% and 82%. Each of these applicants was issued a letter stating that they passed the examination and issuance of their license has been delayed pending any written examination appeals that may impact the licensing decision for their application.

There were no post examination comments.

No findings of significance were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA5 Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the written examinations and the licensee developed the operating tests in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9. The NRC examination team reviewed the proposed examinations. 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 four RO and eight SRO applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests during the period of June 19-28, 2006. Members of the Oconee Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on June 30, 2006. The evaluations of the applicants and review of documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Oconee Nuclear Station, met requirements specified in 10 CFR 55, "Operators' Licenses."

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

The NRC determined that the licensee's examination submittal for the operating test was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

Four Reactor Operators (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operators (SRO) passed both the operating test and written examination. Two SRO applicants failed the written examination overall, and one of these two applicants also failed the SRO portion of that examination. Each applicant who passed the operating test and written examination with an overall score greater than 82% and SRO-only score greater than 74%, as applicable, was issued an operator license commensurate with the level of examination administered. Four SRO applicants passed the operating test, but passed the written examination with overall scores between 80% and 82%. Each of these applicants was issued a letter stating that they passed the examination and issuance of their license has been delayed pending any written examination appeals that may impact the licensing decision for their application.

The combined RO and SRO written examinations, with knowledge and abilities (K/As), question references/answers and examination references, may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML062010367 and ML062010364).

The examination team observed generic weaknesses during the dynamic simulator portion of the operating test. These weaknesses were related to diagnosing a sheared shaft on a high pressure injection pump and diagnosing a failed open pressurizer power operated relief valve. Copies of all individual examination reports were sent to the facility Training Manager for evaluation and determination of appropriate remedial training.

40A6 Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

On June 29, 2006, the examination team discussed generic issues with Mr. Dave Baxter and members of his staff. 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 personnel

D. Baxter, Station Manager
N. Constance, Operations Training Manager
J. Collins, Operations Shift Manager
J. Steely, Initial Training Supervisor
R. Robinson, Operations
J. Weast, Regulatory Compliance
J. Smith, Regulatory Compliance
C. Gray, Regulatory Compliance
K. Schaaf, Training Instructor

NRC personnel

D. Rich, Senior Resident Inspector

SIMULATOR FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Oconee Nuclear Station

Facility Docket Nos.: 05000269/05000270/05000287

Operating Tests Administered: June 19 - 28, 2006

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with IP 71111.11, are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

No simulator fidelity or configuration items were identified.