

APR 2 1993

Docket Nos. 50-390, 50-391
-License Nos. CPPR-91, CPPR-92

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Dr. Mark O. Medford, Vice
President, Nuclear Assurance,
Licensing, & Fuels
3B Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR REACTOR OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS

This letter is to confirm the near-term reactor operator examination schedule for your facility. Based upon your announced Fuel Load Date of January 1994 and discussions conducted with your staff, we have scheduled operator licensing examinations for July 1993. The schedule and process to be used for the conduct of these examinations has been discussed with your staff and found to be mutually acceptable. We desire that there be a reasonable training period for each operator and that you maintain sufficient operators on shift to complete start-up testing. Therefore, we are outlining our program to support these objectives:

- a. Schedule Region II will administer operator examinations to your operators in three groups. The first group will be examined approximately 6 - 9 months prior to a firm Fuel Load Date. (*First group is scheduled for examinations in July 1993 [prep week June 7, and examinations the weeks of June 28 and July 12]; second group is scheduled for examinations in December 1993; and third group is scheduled for examinations in May 1994*).
- b. Scope of Examinations As your facility has undergone extensive modification since the last examinations, comprehensive examinations will be administered that meet the requirements of 10 CFR 55 for both initial and requalification examinations. The results of the examinations will be used as the basis for issuing or denying licenses for initial applicants, as well as serving as the basis for renewal for currently licensed operators. The examinations will be based on your current operator and senior operator training programs, will be tailored to site-specific plant configuration, and will be in accordance with Examiner Standards (ES) 300 series for

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content and grading. The examinations will stress individual evaluation, including the individual's interaction as a crew member, and be developed and administered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). All Senior Reactor Operators (SROs) will be treated as SRO-instant candidates for the purpose of determining the scope of their examination.

- c. Re-examination Requirements Individual examination failures will be handled in accordance with 10 CFR Part 55 requirements as follows:

◆ FOR NEW LICENSE APPLICANTS

In the event an applicant fails either the written or operating portion of the examination, he/she must pass a re-examination in accordance with 10 CFR Part 55 and the applicable Examiner Standards requirements. Waivers of those portions of the examination passed will be granted in accordance with 10 CFR Part 55 and Examiner Standards requirements.

◆ FOR CURRENTLY LICENSED OPERATORS

The facility licensee will provide remedial training to any operator or senior operator who fails the NRC administered examination in accordance with facility's requalification program requirements. These operators may be returned to shift duties following remediation, but must be re-examined by the NRC prior to performing licensed duties with fuel in the reactor. The scope and content of the re-examinations will be based on deficiencies identified during the first examination.

For currently licensed operators, the examination process will be different than that of a standard requalification examination. Since the initial licensing of the Watts Bar operators, your facility has undergone extensive modification, including an entire redesign of the control room. The best method available to reasonably evaluate the licensed operator's knowledge of the current plant design, is by an individual comprehensive examination. The examination will meet the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59 for requalification purposes, but will not be conducted in accordance with the 600 series of the Examiner Standards. A comprehensive examination will be conducted in accordance with the guidance contained in the 300 series of the Examiner Standards.

The requalification program will not be formally evaluated as a part of these comprehensive examinations, but will be evaluated during future NRC requalification inspection activities.

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In addition to the above examinations, Region II will conduct operating evaluations to assess the performance of shift crews as assigned for start-up. These operational evaluations will be performed following your start-up training, which will be conducted immediately prior to start-up. We will coordinate the schedule for the operational evaluation later with your staff.

Please contact us if your understanding is different than that outlined here.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by A. F. Gibson)

Albert F. Gibson, Director
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*per changes noted per fax
as this version incorporates*

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