

January 7, 1999

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

SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT - 50-390/99-301

Dear Mr. Scalice:

In a telephone conversation on December 8, 1998, between Mr. Terry Newman, Operations Training Manager and Mr. Mike Ernstes, Senior License Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant on during the weeks of April 12 and April 26, 1999.

Your staff will prepare the proposed examinations in accordance with the guidelines in Interim Revision 8, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any examination changes that might be necessary prior to their administration. It is requested that your staff coordinate with the chief examiner to determine the appropriate quantity of operating test items necessary to maintain sequestering of candidates to a mutually acceptable level during the examination week.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the proposed examination outlines by January 28, 1999. Two copies of the proposed written examinations, two copies of the proposed operating tests, and one copy of the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by February 27, 1999. Any delay in receiving the required reference and examination materials or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials may result in the examinations being rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402 and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

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.

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Your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications and waiver requests at least 30 days before the first examination date so that the NRC will be able to review the applications and medical certifications, and evaluate any requested waivers. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance Number 3150-0101, which expires April 30, 2000. The estimated average burden is 7.7 hours per response, including gathering, xeroxing and mailing the required reference material; the estimated average burden to prepare the examinations is 400 hours. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch, Mail Stop T-6 F33, Office of Information Resources Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0101), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Newman 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 Mr. Larry Mellen at (404) 562-4531, or myself at (404) 562-4638.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by T. A. Peebles)

Thomas A. Peebles, Chief
Operator Licensing and Human
Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-390
License Nos. NPF-90

cc: {See page 3}

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