

December 29, 2008

Mr. John T. Carlin
Site Vice President
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, LLC
1503 Lake Road
Ontario, NY 14519

SUBJECT: R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
05000244/2008301

Dear Mr. Carlin:

On November 7, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an examination at Ginna. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on December 4, 2008, with Mr. Daniel Dean and other members of your staff.

The examination included the evaluation of three applicants for reactor operator licenses and six applicants for instant senior operator licenses. The written and operating examinations were developed using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The license examiners determined that all nine applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings of significance were identified during this examination.

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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel L. Hansell, Jr., Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-244
License No. DPR-18

Enclosure: NRC Examination Report 05000244/2008301

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SUNSI Review Complete: TF/SLH (Reviewer's Initials)

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J. T. Carlin

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cc w/encl:

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EXAMINATION REPORT
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Docket: 50-244

License: DPR-18

Report: 05000244/2008301

Licensee: Constellation Energy Group

Facility: R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant

Location: Ontario, NY

Dates: October 27 – November 7, 2008

Examiners: T. Fish, Chief Examiner
J. D'Antonio, Sr. Operations Engineer
G. Johnson, Operations Engineer

Approved By: Samuel L. Hansell, Jr., Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000244/2008301; October 27 – November 7, 2008; R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of three applicants for reactor operator licenses and six applicants for instant senior operator licenses at the Ginna facility. The facility licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The written examination was administered by the facility on November 7, 2008. Three NRC examiners administered the operating tests from October 27 - November 3, 2008. The license examiners determined that all nine applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other Activities (Initial Operator License Examination)

.1 License Applications

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed all nine license applications submitted by the licensee to ensure the applications reflected that each applicant satisfied relevant eligibility requirements. The applications were submitted on NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualification Statement," and NRC Form 396, "Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee." The examiner also audited two license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the applicants' qualifications. This audit focused on the applicants' experience, on-the-job training, and eligibility to sit for the instant senior operator license exams.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

.2 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On November 7, 2008, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all nine applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on November 14, 2008.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to all nine applicants from October 27 - November 3, 2008. The three applicants for reactor operator licenses participated in three dynamic simulator scenarios, in a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of eleven system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of four administrative tasks. The six applicants seeking an instant senior operator license participated in three dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks.

b. Findings

All nine applicants passed all parts of the operating test. For the written examinations, the reactor operator applicants' average score was 85.3 percent and ranged from 82 to 92 percent. The senior operator applicants' average score was 84.2 percent and ranged from 80 to 88 percent. The examination questions and the licensee's post-examination comments may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment.

Chapter ES-403 and Form ES-403-1 of NUREG 1021 require the licensee to analyze the validity of any written examination questions that were missed by half or more of the

applicants. Seven questions met this criterion. The licensee conducted this performance analysis and submitted it to the chief examiner.

The licensee submitted a post-examination comment for one question. The licensee recommended accepting two answers for the question. After reviewing the licensee's comments, the NRC decided to accept two responses for the question, and graded the exam accordingly. See Attachment 2 for the licensee's comment and associated NRC response.

.3 Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee developed the examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1. All licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination preparation and validation were on a security agreement. The facility licensee submitted both the written and operating examination outlines on June 12, 2008. The chief examiner reviewed the outlines against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee. The facility licensee submitted the draft examination package on July 3, 2008. The chief examiner reviewed the draft examination package against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee on the examination on August 18, 2008. The NRC conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided associated comments during the week of July 21, 2008. The facility licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution on October 14, 2008.

Facility staff asked to move the original exam start date (August 25, 2008) to October 27, 2008, in order to accommodate additional training. The NRC exam team agreed to this request.

b. Findings

The examiners determined that the written and operating examinations initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability for a proposed examination.

No findings of significance were identified.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Examination Scope

The examiners observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Examination Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security for examination development and during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

40A6 Meetings, Including Exit

The chief examiner presented the examination results to Mr. D. Dean, General Supervisor of Shift Operations, and other members of the licensee's management staff on December 4, 2008.

The licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

ATTACHMENT 1: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
ATTACHMENT 2: SUMMARY OF FACILITY POST EXAM COMMENT AND NRC
RESOLUTION OF FACILITY POST EXAM COMMENT

ATTACHMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

A. Vest	Facility Exam Developer
J. Brown	Operations Training Manager
R. Adams	Supervisor Initial License Training

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

NONE

Opened and Closed

NONE

Closed

NONE

Discussed

NONE

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML083110619	FINAL-Written Exam
Accession No. ML083110665	FINAL-Operating Exam

ATTACHMENT 2

**SUMMARY OF FACILITY POST EXAM COMMENT AND
NRC RESOLUTION OF FACILITY POST EXAM COMMENT**

Question 98:

This question was related to initiation of a Gas Decay Tank release. Per procedure, a release needs to be initiated within twelve hours from the time the tank was sampled. If not initiated within twelve hours, Chemistry Supervisor permission is required to initiate the release. This concept was the basis for the original answer, "A".

During its post exam review, the facility noted this question had a second correct answer. As described in distractor "B", if a release is NOT initiated within twelve hours of tank sample time, re-sampling the tank is required to initiate the release. (Chemistry Supervisor permission would NOT be required.) That is, operators would re-enter the Gas Decay Tank procedure and follow the steps to initiate a release, beginning again with a sample of the tank.

NRC Resolution:

Comment accepted. It is not necessary to get Chemistry Supervisor permission to initiate a release if more than twelve hours has elapsed from the time the tank was sampled, provided the operators re-sample the tank. It is acceptable for operators to consider the release as a "new" release request. Accordingly, they would re-enter the release procedure, and reinitiate the process for a release. Facility procedure CH-RETS-GDT-REL, Gas Decay Tank Release, supports the second correct answer.