



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-1415**

October 24, 2009

Mr. Sam Belcher  
Vice President  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC  
P.O. Box 63  
Lycoming, NY 13093-0063

**SUBJECT: NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 – NRC EXAMINATION  
REPORT NO. 05000220/2009303**

Dear Mr. Belcher:

On September 8, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an examination at Nine Mile Point Unit 1. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on September 17, 2009, with Mr. Robert Brown.

The examination included the evaluation of one applicant for a reactor operator license, and seven 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 six of eight applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses were issued on September 17, 2009. In addition, two applicants for instant senior operator licenses passed their exams but their licenses are being held as explained in paragraph D.3.c of Examination Standard (ES) 501 in NUREG-1021 until the facility has certified in writing that the applicants have completed all of their experience requirements.

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

Enclosure: NRC Examination Report No. 05000220/2009303

cc: w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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 Samuel L. Hansell, Jr., Chief  
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**EXAMINATION REPORT**

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I**

Docket: 50-220

Licenses: DPR-63

Report : 05000220/2009303

Licensee: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, LLC (NMPNS)

Facility: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1

Location : Oswego, New York

Dates: August 31 – September 3, 2009 (Operating Test Administration)  
September 8, 2009 (Written Examination Administration)  
September 15, 2009 (Licensee Submitted Post Exam Package)  
September 4 - 16, 2009 (NRC Examination Grading)  
September 17, 2009 (Licenses Issued)

Inspectors: John Caruso, Chief Examiner, Senior Operations Branch  
Joseph D'Antonio, Senior Operations Engineer  
Brian Fuller, Operations Engineer  
Tom Hedigan, Operations Engineer (Certification Exam)  
Bernard Litkett, Operations Engineer (Examiner In-Training)  
David Molteni, Operations Engineer (Examiner In-Training)

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

Enclosure

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000220/2009303; August 31 - September 8, 2009; Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 1; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of one applicant for a reactor operator license, and seven applicants for instant senior operator licenses at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 1. The NRC developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on August 31- September 3, 2009. The written examination was administered by the facility on September 8, 2009. The license examiners determined that six of the eight applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses were issued on September 17, 2009. In addition, two of the seven applicants for instant senior operator licenses passed their exams but their licenses are being held as explained in paragraph D.3.c of Examination Standard (ES) 501 in NUREG-1021 until the facility has certified in writing that the applicants have completed all of their waived items.

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 eight of license applications submitted by the licensee to ensure the applications reflected that each applicant satisfied relevant license 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 examiners also audited three of the license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the applicant's qualifications. This audit focused on the applicant's experience and on-the-job training, including control manipulations that provided significant reactivity changes.

###### b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

##### .2 Operator Knowledge and Performance

###### a. Examination Scope

On September 8, 2009, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all eight applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on September 15, 2009. Note: The applicant for a reactor operator (RO) license was administered a written retake examination only and was granted a waiver for the various portions of the operating examination which he had passed previously.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to all seven instant senior operator (SROI) license applicants on August 31-September 3, 2009. The seven 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 seven of the SROI applicants passed all parts of the operating test. One RO applicant and all seven SROI applicants passed the written examination. For the written examinations, the RO applicant's average score was 85.33 percent. The senior operator applicants' average score was 90.28 percent and ranged from 85.00 to 95.00 percent. The overall written examination average was 89.66 percent. The operating

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test and the text of the written examination questions 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. The licensee graded the examination on September 8, 2009, and subsequently conducted this performance analysis for two questions that met these criteria and submitted the analysis to the chief examiner. This analysis concluded that all the questions were technically valid as administered.

.3 Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Examination Scope

The NRC developed the examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1. All licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination validation were on a security agreement. The NRC conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations the week of July 27, 2009. The NRC satisfactorily completed comment resolution on August 21, 2009.

b. Findings

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, 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.

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40A6 Meetings, Including Exit

The chief examiner presented the examination results to Mr. Robert Brown, Operations Training Manager on September 17, 2009. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

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

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Enclosure

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**ATTACHMENT**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**  
**KEY POINTS OF CONTACT**

Licensee Personnel

R. Dean, Manager, Nuclear Training  
R. Brown, Operations Training Manager  
T. Hooper, Nuclear Training Instructor

NRC Personnel

E. Knutson, Senior Resident Inspector  
D. Dempsey, Resident Inspector

**ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED**

Opened

NONE

Closed

NONE

Discussed

NONE

**ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED**

Accession No. ML092600834 – FINAL-Written  
Accession No. ML092600844 – FINAL-Operating Exam