



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

JUN 8 2010

Michael Perito
Vice President, Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT 05000458/2010301

Dear Mr. Perito:

On April 22, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at the River Bend Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination findings were discussed on April 22, 2010, with yourself and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on May 12, 2010, with Mr. John Fralic, who was provided the NRC licensing decisions.

The examination included the evaluation of five applicants for reactor operator licenses, two applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and three applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined that nine of the ten applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued. There were no post-examination comments submitted by your staff. The enclosure to this letter contains the details of this report.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Haire", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Docket: 50-458

License: NPF-47

Enclosure:

NRC Examination Report 05000458/2010301

cc w/enclosure:

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47
Report: 05000458/2010301
Licensee: Entergy Operations, Inc.
Facility: River Bend Station
Location: St. Francisville, LA
Dates: April 16, 2010, through May 12, 2010
Inspectors: S. Garchow, Senior Operations Engineer
G. Apper, Operations Engineer
C. Steely, Operations Engineer
Approved By: Mark Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER05000458/2010301; April 16 – May 12, 2010; River Bend Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of five applicants for reactor operator licenses, two applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses and three applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses at River Bend Station.

The 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 licensee on April 16, 2010. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on April 19 – 22, 2009.

The examiners determined that nine of the ten 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

NRC examiners reviewed all license applications submitted to ensure each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. The examiners also audited three of the license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the subject 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 Examination Development

a. Scope

NRC examiners reviewed integrated examination outlines and draft examinations submitted by the licensee against the requirements of NUREG-1021. The NRC examination team conducted an onsite validation of the operating tests.

b. Findings

NRC examiners provided outline, draft examination and post-validation comments to the licensee. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to examination administration.

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

.3 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Scope

On April 16, 2010, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all ten applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on April 22, 2010.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all ten applicants on April 19-22, 2010.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

Nine of the ten applicants passed the written examination. All the applicants passed all parts of the operating test. The final written examinations and post-examination analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment. There were no post-examination comments indicated in the licensee post-exam analysis.

The examination team noted a generic weakness in the area of tagging plant components.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

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

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed examination security during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with 10 CFR 55.49 and NUREG-1021. 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 preliminary examination results to Mr. Perito and other members of the staff on April 22, 2010. A telephonic exit was conducted on May 5, 2010, between Ms. Laura Hurley, Operator Licensing Assistant, and Mr. John Fralic, Supervisor of Operator Training.

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

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

A. Bergeron, Exam Developer

J. Fralic, Supervisor Operator Training

NRC Personnel

G. Larkin, Senior Resident Inspector

C. Norton, Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML1012601230 - FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS

Accession No. ML1012601480 - POST EXAM ANALYSIS

Accession No. ML1015301484 – FINAL OPERATING TEST