



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

July 16, 2010

James R. Douet
Site Vice President Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION - NRC EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000416/2010301

Dear Mr. Douet:

On July 1, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination findings were discussed on July 1, 2010, with you and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on July 8, 2010, with Mr. J. Caery, who was provided the NRC licensing decisions.

The examination included the evaluation of two applicants for reactor operator licenses and three applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined that all of the 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 were identified during this examination.

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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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,



for Mark S. Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-416
License: NPF-29

Enclosure:
NRC Examination Report 05000416/2010301

cc w/enclosure:
Senior Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Senior Vice President and COO
Entergy Operations, Inc
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Thomas Palmisano
Vice President, Oversight
Entergy Operations, Inc
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Chief, Energy and Transportation Branch
Environmental Compliance and
Enforcement Division
Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 2249
Jackson, MS 39225-2249

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Interim County Administrator
Claiborne County
Board of Supervisors (James Johnston)
510 Market Street
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Manager, Licensing
Sr. Site Executive
Entergy Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Senior Manager, Nuclear Safety & Licensing
Licensing /Regulatory Affairs
Entergy Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Manager, Licensing
Entergy Operations, Inc
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
P. O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205-0139

Attorney General
Assistant Attorney General
State of Mississippi
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205

State Health Officer
State Health Board
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Associate General Counsel
Entergy Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality
Radiological Emergency Planning and
Response Division
P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

Chief, Technological Hazards
Branch
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop 288
Federal Regional Center
Denton, TX 76209

Joseph A. Aluise
Associate General Council - Nuclear
Entergy Services, Inc.
639 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70113

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket: 50-416
Licenses: NPF-29
Report: 05000416/2010301
Licensee: Entergy Operations, Inc.
Facility: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Location: Waterloo Road
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150
Dates: June 25 to July 8, 2010
Inspectors: S. Garchow (Chief Examiner)
S. Hedger (Examiner, Chief Examiner Under Instruction)
G. Apger (Examiner)
Approved By: M. Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER05000416/2010301; June 25 to July 8, 2010; Grand Gulf Nuclear Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of two applicants for reactor operator licenses and three applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses at Grand Gulf Nuclear 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 June 25, 2010. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on June 28 - July 1, 2010.

The examiners determined that all of the 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 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 two 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 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 June 25, 2010, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all five applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on July 8, 2010.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all five applicants June 28 - July 1, 2010.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

All of the applicants passed the written examination and all parts of the operating test. The final written examinations, operating tests, 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 as indicated in the licensee submittal.

The examination team noted several generic weaknesses, which were discussed with licensee management on July 1, 2010. Areas for improvement in operator training included print reading skills, crew briefing protocols in the control room, and general knowledge of the site security procedures. On several occasions, mismatches between equipment labeling and its description in procedures were identified as well. The equipment labeling mismatch issues were entered into their corrective action program as Condition Reports CR-GGN-2010-05216, CR-GGN-2010-05248, and CR-GGN-2010-05378.

.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 were identified.

A discrepancy was found in the simulator during the administration of the dynamic scenarios. The licensee documented the issue with Simulator Discrepancy Report (DR Number 10-0077), and it is described in Attachment 2 of this report.

.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 were identified.

4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

The chief examiner presented the preliminary examination results to Messrs. J. Browning, Plant Manager, E. Mathes, Assistant Operations Manager for Training, J. Caery, Training Manager, and other members of the staff on July 1, 2010. A telephonic exit was conducted on July 8, 2010, between Messrs. S. Hedger, Examiner, and J. Caery.

There was one security-related procedure used during the exam. Per discussion with licensee management on July 1, 2010, the examiners agreed to dispose of the materials properly. Other than this case, the licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

ATTACHMENT 1: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

ATTACHMENT 2: SIMULATOR FIDELITY REPORT

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

M. Rasch, Exam Developer
W. Ryder, Exam Developer
D. Cooper, Licensed Operator Class Lead
E. Mathes, Assistant Operations Manager, Training
J. Browning, General Manager, Plant Operations
D. Coulter, Senior Licensing Specialist
J. Caery, Training Manager
C. Roberts, Senior Staff Operations Instructor
K. Higginbotham, Operations Manager
B. Bryant, Operations Training Superintendent (Initial)
M. Richey, Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
D. Fearn, Simulator Support Superintendent

NRC Personnel

R. Smith, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML101930034 - FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS
Accession No. ML101940056 - FINAL OPERATING TESTS
Accession No. ML101930049 - POST EXAM ANALYSIS

Facility Licensee: Grand Gulf
Facility Docket No.: 50-416
Operating Test Administered on: 6/28-7/01/10

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with IP 71111.11, are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

While conducting the simulator portion of the operating tests, examiners observed the following items:

Item	Description
N41102, Generator Auto Voltage Regulator Trip and Reset	<p>During a scenario that caused Thyristor Voltage Regulator to switch to MANUAL, the applicants cleared the fault and attempted to place it back in AUTOMATIC mode. This is accomplished by establishing a "0" voltage balance indication on N51-R603, TVR VOLT BAL on P680-9D-B, followed by pressing the AUTO and RELEASE pushbuttons simultaneously. When this was completed on 6/29/10, it did not switch to AUTOMATIC mode. It was noted on the Instructor interface at this time that variable T-REX DRAW for N51-R603 indicated -5.0. Further adjustments were made, the switch to AUTOMATIC mode was attempted again and completed successfully. At that time, the T-REX DRAW variable indicated -4.8.</p> <p>The licensee initiated a Simulator Discrepancy Report to verify that the TVR transfer operation in the simulator is consistent with the plant. Correct any issues found, including the delta between the T-REX DRAW indication versus the N51-R603 gauge.</p>