



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 19, 2012

Mr. Anthony Vitale
Vice-President, Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Palisades Nuclear Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION APPROVAL

Dear Mr. Vitale:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the final arrangements for the upcoming operator licensing examinations at the Palisades Nuclear Plant.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed its review of the operator license applications in connection with this examination and separately provided a list of approved applicants to Mr. Hugh Nixon, Training Manager. Note that any examination waivers and application denials have been addressed in separate correspondence.

The NRC has approved the subject examinations and hereby authorizes you to administer the written examinations in accordance with Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," one day during the week of October 8, 2012. The NRC staff will administer the operating tests during the weeks of October 1 and 8, 2012. This examination has undergone extensive review by my staff and representatives responsible for licensed operator training at your facility. Based on this review, I have concluded that the examination meets the guidelines of NUREG-1021 for content, operational, and discrimination validity. By administering this examination, you also agree that it meets NUREG-1021 guidelines, and is appropriate for measuring the qualifications of licensed operator applicants at your facility. If you determine that this examination is not appropriate for licensed operators at your facility, do not administer the examination and contact me at 630-829-9707.

Please contact your Chief Examiner, Mr. Raymond Walton, at 630-829-9836, if you have any questions or identify any errors or changes in the license level (RO or SRO) or type of examination (partial or complete written examination and/or operating test) specified for each applicant.

A. Vitale

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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A. Vitale

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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