NRC-030
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Statement of Professional Qualifications
Michael K. Meeks, Senior Operations Engineer
Region II, Division of Reactor Safety
Operations Branch 1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. Meeks is a Senior Operations Engineer with approximately 17 years of experience in nuclear power. His expertise includes leading Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examination teams in the development, review, administration, and grading of initial licensed operator examinations at Westinghouse, Babcock and Wilcox (B&W), and Combustion Engineering (CE) nuclear reactor designs. In his five years of experience with the NRC, Mr. Meeks has written, administered, reviewed, and/or graded over 15 initial licensed operator examinations. His expertise also includes participation on regional-based inspection teams to evaluate operations-related activities at light-water commercial power reactors, specifically including extensive evaluation and inspection of licensed operator requalification training programs. Prior to joining the NRC, Mr. Meeks worked for four years for Entergy Nuclear Operations in the Operations department of the Indian Point 3 (IP3) nuclear plant, including approximately two years of shiftwork experience as an on-watch licensed Senior Reactor Operator (SRO). Mr. Meeks began his professional career by serving his country for eight years as a nuclear-trained submarine officer, including duty as the operations officer of a forward-deployed submarine squadron and qualifying as a Nuclear Engineer Officer by examination of the Department of Naval Reactors.

EDUCATION

B.S. Marine Engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, May 1996.
Senior Reactor Operator License, Indian Point Unit 3 Nuclear Plant, Buchanan, NY, October 2006.

EXPERIENCE

From 2008-present at the U.S. NRC, Mr. Meeks has held successive positions of increased responsibility, first as an Operations Engineer, and currently as a Senior Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner qualified). Principal responsibilities have included the development, preparation, administration, and grading of initial licensed operator examinations in accordance with the requirements of NUREG-1021, “Operator Licensing Examination Standards For Power Reactors;” as well as the other regulations, standards, and guidance associated with the NRC’s operator licensing program. These examinations test an applicant’s understanding and application of the knowledge and skills required to safely operate nuclear power plants during normal, abnormal, and emergency conditions; including such areas as: reactor technology and theory, facility design, operating characteristics, procedures, license conditions, instrumentation and control of reactor operations, and the emergency plan. Initial licensed operator examinations test an applicant’s ability to operate as a member of a team in a dynamic real-time simulator environment, individually in both “hands-on” simulator situations and administrative tasks, and also individually on a comprehensive site-specific written examination. Furthermore, Mr. Meeks has led and participated on region-based teams conducting the light-water reactor

inspection program with a focus on nuclear operations, specifically including extensive evaluation and inspection of licensed operator requalification training programs.

From 2004 to 2008, Mr. Meeks was employed by Entergy Nuclear Operations in the Operations department of the IP3 nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York. After spending approximately ten months as a non-licensed operator, with experience encompassing classroom training, on-shift time learning the job of an non-licensed operator, and on-shift time as a qualified non-licensed operator (including a refueling outage), Mr. Meeks began initial licensed operator training as an "instant" SRO candidate. During this training, Mr. Meeks first completed the Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) program and examination, and then completed the site-specific "hot license" program and examinations, including classroom training and examinations, simulator training and evaluations, and on-the-job training that included under-instruction watches under the supervision of licensed personnel. Mr. Meeks was issued a SRO license by the NRC after passing all portions of a final NRC-administered written and operating examination. The examinations previously discussed are examinations written and administered to the same standards as those that Mr. Meeks now writes, reviews, administers, and on which he evaluates operator performance. During approximately two years as an on-shift licensed SRO, Mr. Meeks was responsible for the safe operation of the plant, including direction and supervision of both licensed and non-licensed operators. While on watch, Mr. Meeks was directly responsible for ensuring the plant was operated in accordance with procedures and maintained within the licensing bases. Job duties included, but were not limited to: writing and approving clearance orders; authorizing work orders; directing performance of normal, abnormal, and emergency procedures; reviewing procedure changes; writing corrective action documents; and screening corrective action documents for operability determinations.

From 1996 to 2004, Mr. Meeks served as a nuclear-trained submarine warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. After completing initial naval nuclear power training and initial submarine officer training, Mr. Meeks effectively led several different divisions as a junior officer on the USS CHEYENNE (SSN 773), a front-line operational nuclear fast-attack submarine. Among his various accomplishments during this tour, Mr. Meeks was nominated as the submarine's candidate for squadron junior officer engineer of the year, passed the Nuclear Engineer Officer examination given by the Department of Naval Reactors, and was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal specifically for exceptional performance as the senior-qualified Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW, a SRO-equivalent) during an Operational Reactor Safeguards Examination (ORSE). Mr. Meeks was then assigned as the operations officer for Submarine Squadron TWENTY-TWO, which was forward-deployed in La Maddalena, Sardinia, Italy. Mr. Meeks' duties included coordinating the scheduling of port visits and maintenance availabilities for all Mediterranean submarines and surface ships. Following serious incidents at sea, Mr. Meeks developed short-notice certification training and operational evaluation programs for two submarines, and also developed an operational evaluation program for another submarine following a significant change in operational tasking. Before leaving the Navy, Mr. Meeks was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his performance as squadron operations officer, including duties performed during the initial phases of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.