

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Official Hearing Exhibit	
In the Matter of:	Charlissa C. Smith (Denial of Senior Reactor Operator License)
	ASLBP #: 13-925-01-SP-BD01
	Docket #: 05523694
	Exhibit #: NRC-040-00-BD01
	Admitted: 7/17/2013
	Rejected: Other:
Identified: 7/17/2013	
Withdrawn:	
Stricken:	

NRC-040  
Submitted: May 31, 2013

**Statement of Professional Qualifications**  
**John J. McHale, Chief**  
**Operator Licensing and Training Branch, Division of Inspection and Regional Support**  
**Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation,**  
**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Mr. McHale is a mechanical engineer with thirty years of experience in nuclear power plant engineering and operations. His expertise includes design and operation of mechanical components and systems as well as integrated plant operations. He has direct experience with regulatory requirements related to in-service testing of mechanical components, application of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) codes and licensing of commercial nuclear power plant operators. Prior to employment by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), he gained experience in private industry as a quality assurance engineer, design engineer and systems and design engineering supervisor. He was also licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and served on-shift as a control room supervisor and shift technical advisor (STA). Mr. McHale also served as a nuclear qualified officer in the U.S. Navy's submarine force. He is currently the branch chief responsible for oversight of the NRC's operator licensing program.

**EDUCATION**

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, May 1982

Master of Mechanical Engineering, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, May 1983

Registered Professional Engineer, State of Maryland, 1995

**EXPERIENCE**

From 2009-present, at the U.S. NRC, McHale has been the branch chief responsible for program oversight of the NRC's operator licensing program. As branch he is responsible for establishing rules, standards, plans, and policy in the areas of training and operator licensing. This includes evaluating industry performance and initiatives; evaluation of initial examination, licensing, and requalification programs for power reactor operator applicants and operators; and oversight of regional implementation of the licensed operator program. He also has responsibility for establishing the requirements and policy for the NRC inspector training program. This includes initial qualifications; refresher and continued training as a means for updating and maintaining qualifications; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the inspector training and qualification process. Mr. McHale also has technical responsibilities for the NRC's post-Fukushima response in the area of accident management procedures, command and control, training and exercises.

Mr. McHale joined the NRC in 2006 as a mechanical engineer in the Component Performance and Testing Branch with responsibilities for evaluation of licensing actions related to mechanical component in-service testing in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a. He prepared safety evaluations for ASME Code relief and alternatives, license amendment requests and topical

reports, assisted regional inspectors in evaluating issues related to component performance and prepared NRC generic communications. In 2007, he was promoted to chief of this branch and supervised staff in completion of similar activities. During this time, Mr. McHale was a member of the ASME code committee for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants.

Mr. McHale was employed at Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant from 1991 – 2006. He supervised a unit of mechanical and civil engineers responsible for configuration management and design control of the nuclear power plant, including engineering of modifications to the power plant and Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility, application of 10CFR50.59 and 72.48 regulations, ASME codes/standards and supporting analyses. He also supervised a group of engineers responsible for nuclear power plant primary systems. In this role, Mr. McHale was responsible for oversight of the application of the Maintenance Rule program (10 CFR 50.65) and development of operability determinations in accordance with NRC Generic Letter 91-18. He also directed systems engineering support of the station's equipment reliability program, engineering test procedures, troubleshooting and plant maintenance. During his time as an engineering supervisor, Mr. McHale developed the training plan for the engineering services population and ensured it met requirements for accreditation by the National Academy for Nuclear Training. He also acted as an Issue Response Team Director during refueling outage and critical on-line maintenance periods, when he was responsible for resolution of emergent issues through the formation and leadership of interdisciplinary teams dedicated to safe and timely resolution of "fly-up" plant issues. Prior to assuming supervisory duties in 2004, Mr. McHale was licensed by the NRC as a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) and qualified as an STA. He performed senior licensed duties as a Control Room Supervisor and Operations Work Controller during power operations and refueling outage periods, in which he supervised an operating shift crew to ensure safe operation of the nuclear unit. Mr. McHale was responsible for compliance with station Technical Specifications and operating procedures, plus coordination of maintenance and testing activities. As an SRO, he also led his crew during responses to simulated accident scenarios, and acted in an advisory capacity as STA.

Before his tenure as a licensed operator, Mr. McHale held staff engineer positions at Calvert Cliffs. He was the lead design engineer for several plant modifications, including replacement of plant's service water heat exchangers and upgrade of compressed air systems. These duties involved coordinating a multi-discipline team of engineers to evaluate mechanical, civil, electrical, and instrumentation and control issues and produce engineering products to support field construction. During these assignments, Mr. McHale worked closely with construction and maintenance personnel to successfully install major plant modifications within strict time and budgetary constraints. He also analyzed plant operating scenarios, such as system mechanical performance under accident conditions and performed safety evaluations of proposed plant modifications. Mr. McHale held certification as a Lead Auditor in accordance with American National Standards Institute N45.2.23 and was responsible for planning and conducting performance evaluations of areas critical to nuclear power plant operation and safety.

Mr. McHale served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1982 – 1991. After completion of nuclear power school and prototype training, he was assigned to the USS Groton (SSN-694), a nuclear powered fast attack submarine, where he qualified as Officer of the Deck (underway) and ship's duty officer (in port). In those capacities, he was responsible for overall ship's safety, including navigation, communications, operation of all ship's systems, and control of watchstanders during normal and casualty situations. Mr. McHale was also qualified as a propulsion plant watch officer both underway and in port, supervising operation of ship's propulsion plant. In addition, he was assigned as a division officer with various engineering and weapons

department responsibilities during a shipyard overhaul period and at-sea operations. Following completion of his sea duty assignment, Mr. McHale was the Director, Prospective Nuclear Engineer Officer Training, at Naval Submarine School. As a qualified Nuclear Engineer Officer, he was responsible for the program preparing officers for certification by Naval Reactors to be eligible for assignment as the Chief Engineer Officer aboard a nuclear powered ship. He also supervised 32 instructors in Naval Submarine School's Nuclear Training Division, providing 30 courses of instruction for submarine fleet sailors and was designated as a Master Training Specialist by the Chief of Naval Technical Training.