

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-028-00-BD01
	Admitted: 7/17/2013
	Rejected:
	Other:
	Identified: 7/17/2013 Withdrawn: Stricken:

NRC-028
Submitted: May 30, 2013

Statement of Professional Qualifications
Mark A. Bates, Senior Operations Engineer
Region II, Division of Reactor Safety
Operations Branch 1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Mr. Bates is a Senior Operations Engineer with approximately 20 years of experience in commercial 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), General Electric (GE), and Combustion Engineering (CE) reactor designs. In his 10 years of experience at the NRC, Mr. Bates has written, administered, reviewed, and graded dozens of initial license operator examinations. His expertise also includes leading region-based inspection teams to evaluate operations-related activities at power reactor facilities mostly in the Southeastern United States. These inspections have included evaluation of licensed operator requalification training programs, as well as engineering, reactive and supplemental inspections that required an evaluation of actions taken by licensed operators.

Prior to joining the NRC, Mr. Bates spent approximately 10 years with Consumers Energy and Nuclear Management Company holding positions in both the engineering and operations organizations. Mr. Bates spent over six years directly and indirectly supporting operations as a neutronics, safety analysis, and reactor engineer. He also spent over three years in operations and held a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) license at the Palisades Nuclear Plant.

EDUCATION

B.S. Nuclear and Power Engineering, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, June 1994.
M.S. Engineering Management, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, April 1999.
Senior Reactor Operator License, Palisades Nuclear Plant, Covert, MI, January 2002.

EXPERIENCE

From 2003-present, at the NRC, Mr. Bates has held the positions of Operations Engineer and Senior Operations Engineer (Chief Examiner). His responsibilities have included participation in joint NRC/Industry working groups to develop the examination requirements for future license operators on the AP-1000 reactor design, leading reactive inspections following significant industry events, conducting inspections of licensed operator requalification training programs, and leading teams of examiners to develop, review, administer, and grade initial operator license examinations.

As a Chief Examiner, Mr. Bates ensures that initial licensed operator examinations are written, administered, and graded in accordance with the standards in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examinations Standards." These examinations test the applicant's understanding and application of skills required to safely operate nuclear power plants during normal, abnormal, and emergency conditions. These examinations test the applicant's ability to operate as a member of a team in a dynamic real-time simulator environment, individually in a hands-on

environment, individually on administrative tasks, and individually on the site-specific written examination.

From June 1994 to March 2003 Mr. Bates was employed by Consumers Energy/Nuclear Management Company at their Palisades Nuclear Plant in Covert, Michigan. As a neutronics and safety analysis engineer, Mr. Bates performed core design calculations, criticality analyses, and managed the fuel vendor's completion of the reload-specific safety analysis calculations. As a reactor engineer, Mr. Bates was the lead test engineer for start-up physics testing, developed fuel movement plans for core reloads, led irradiated fuel inspection and reconstitution efforts, and was the system engineer for the spent fuel pool. Also, Mr. Bates provided support to the control room licensed operators for fuel and neutron detector issues that impacted the operation of the plant, which included daily monitoring of the reactor core, guidance to the control room staff for power maneuvers, calibration of excore detectors, tracking of special nuclear material, calibration of feedwater flow instruments, and others. Furthermore, Mr. Bates held various positions within the emergency response organizations in both the Emergency Offsite Facility (EOF) and the Technical Support Center (TSC).

Also, while at the Palisades Nuclear Plant, Mr. Bates obtained a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) license and was qualified both as a Control Room Supervisor (CRS) and Shift Technical Advisor (STA). To obtain an SRO license, Mr. Bates received training first as a non-licensed operator, which included time on-shift learning the job of an auxiliary operator. Mr. Bates then completed the Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) program which culminated in passing the NRC's GFE. Lastly, Mr. Bates completed the hot license portion of the training program which included training on shift as an operator under instruction, classroom instruction, and dynamic simulator training. At the end of this program, Mr. Bates passed all portions of his NRC site-specific written and operating examinations to obtain his SRO license. The programs previously stated are similar to the programs which Mr. Bates now evaluates. The examinations previously stated were examinations written to the same standards as those that Mr. Bates now writes, reviews, administers and on which he evaluates operator performance.

As a licensed SRO, Mr. Bates was responsible for oversight of the plant during off-normal and emergency conditions. Mr. Bates directed the activities of both licensed and non-licensed operators to safely operate the plant. Mr. Bates was directly responsible for ensuring the plant was operated in accordance with procedures and maintained within the licensing basis. Job duties included, but, were not limited to, writing and approving tagging orders, authorizing work orders, directing performance of normal, abnormal and emergency procedures, reviewing procedure changes, and screening corrective action documents for operability. Mr. Bates was also an alternate Plant Review Committee (PRC) member and was qualified to implement the site emergency plan. Lastly, Mr. Bates also participated in validating NRC examinations written by the Palisades training staff to be administered by the NRC during initial operator license examinations.