



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I
2100 RENAISSANCE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-2713

April 3, 2014

Mr. Chris Wamser
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
PO Box 250
Vernon, VT 05354

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE - NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000271/2014301

Dear Mr. Wamser:

On March 25, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an examination at the Vermont Yankee facility. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on February 12, 2014, with Mr. K. Stupak of your Operations Training staff.

The examination included the evaluation of four applicants for upgrade senior operator licenses. The Vermont Yankee training staff developed the written examination and operating test using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The license examiners determined that all four applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings were identified during this examination.

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 Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donald E. Jackson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-271
License No.: DPR-28

C. Wamser

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Enclosure:
NRC Initial Operator Licensing Examination
Report 05000271/2014301
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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Distribution: See Next Page

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EXAMINATION REPORT

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I**

Docket: 50-271

License: DPR-28

Report: 05000271/2014301

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear, LLC

Facility: Vermont Yankee

Location: Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05354

Dates: February 11-12 and March 24-25, 2014 (Operating Test Administration)
February 14, 2014 (Written Examination Administration)
February 21, 2014 (Licensee Submitted Post Exam Package)
February 24 and March 26, 2014 (NRC Examination Grading)
March 14 and 27, 2014 (Licenses Issued)

Examiners: D. McNeil, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch, Region III
D. Reeser, Operations Engineer, Region III
T. Fish, Sr. Operations Engineer, Region I

Approved By: Donald E. Jackson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000271/2014301; March 25, 2014; Vermont Yankee; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of four applicants for upgrade senior operator licenses at Vermont Yankee. The licensee's training department developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The facility training staff administered the written examination on February 14, 2014. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on February 11-12 and March 24-25, 2014. The NRC 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

None.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other Activities (Initial Operator License Examination)

.1 License Applications

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed all four license applications submitted by the licensee to ensure the applications reflected that each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. The applications were submitted on NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualification Statement," and NRC Form 396, "Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee." The chief examiner also audited all 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 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On February 14, 2014, the facility training staff proctored the administration of the written examination to all applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on February 21, 2014.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to the applicants on February 11-12 and March 24-25, 2014. Each applicant participated in at least two dynamic simulator scenarios and in a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of five system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks.

b. Findings

All applicants passed all parts of the operating test and written examination. For the written examinations, the applicants' average score was 85.5 percent and ranged from 82 to 93 percent. The examination questions may be accessed in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) system under the accession numbers noted in Attachment 1. In accordance with current NRC policy, the release of this written examination in ADAMS to the public will be delayed for 2 years.

Enclosure

Chapter ES-403 and Form ES-403-1 of NUREG 1021 require the licensee to analyze the validity of any written examination questions that were missed by half or more of the applicants. The licensee conducted this performance analysis for 13 questions that met this criterion and submitted the analysis to the chief examiner. The licensee did not submit any post-examination comments.

.3 Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Examination Scope

The station's training department personnel developed the examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1. All licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination preparation and validation were listed on a security agreement.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Examination Scope

The examiners observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Examination Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security for examination development and during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements. 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 examination team's preliminary observations and findings on February 12, 2014, to Mr. K. Stupak, Vermont Yankee Training Manager, and other members of the Vermont Yankee Operations and Training Department staff. Mr. V. Fallacara, GMPO, attend the debrief by telephone.

The licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

Attachment:
Supplemental Information

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

V. Fallacara, GMPO
S. Aprea, AOM(T)
D. Jones, Ops Manager
J. Paradis, Superintendent, Ops Initial Training
W. Schulze, Nuclear Training Instructor
B. Stewart, Exam Team Liaison
K. Stupak, Training Manager
J. Taylor, Superintendent, Ops Requal Training

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

None.

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML14055A041 – FINAL-Written Exam (Note: In accordance with current NRC policy, the release of this written examination in ADAMS to the public will be delayed for two years.)

Accession No. ML14059A546 – FINAL-Operating Exam