



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

September 18, 2014

Mr. Larry Weber  
Senior VP and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Indiana Michigan Power Company  
Nuclear Generation Group  
One Cook Place  
BRIDGMAN, MI 49106

SUBJECT: DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2  
NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 05000315/2014301;  
05000316/2014301

Dear Mr. Weber:

On August 12, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the initial operator licensing examination process for license applicants employed at your Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the results of those examinations. Preliminary observations noted during the examination process were discussed on August 1, 2014, with Mr. J. Gebbie, Site Vice President, and other members of your staff. An exit meeting was conducted by telephone on August 12, 2014, between Mr. D. Emery, Station Training Manager, and Mr. D. McNeil, NRC Senior Operations Engineer, to review the proposed final grading of the written examination and operating test for the license applicants. During the telephone exit meeting, it was confirmed with Mr. Emery that the station had no post-examination comments for the written examination or the operating test.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the weeks of July 21 and July 28, 2014. The written examination was administered by Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant training department personnel on August 4, 2014. Eight Senior Reactor Operator and eight Reactor Operator applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on August 29, 2014. All of the applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and eight applicants were issued senior operator licenses and eight applicants were issued operator licenses. Five of the Senior Reactor Operator license applicants were previously licensed Reactor Operators at the station.

During the debrief meeting on August 1, 2014, Mr. Emery requested the written examination documentation be withheld from public disclosure for 24 months. The written examination will be withheld per your request.

L. Weber

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In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

***/RA Richard K. Walton Acting for/***

Hironori Peterson, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-315; 50-316  
License No. DPR-58; DPR-74

Enclosures:

1. Initial License Exam Report (ER)  
05000315/2014301; 05000316/2014301  
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information
2. Simulation Facility Report

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket Nos: 50-315; 50-316  
License Nos: DPR-58; DPR-74

Report No: 05000315/2014301; 05000316/2014301

Licensee: Indiana Michigan Power Company

Facility: Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

Location: Bridgman, MI

Dates: July 21, 2014 – August 12, 2014

Inspectors: D. McNeil, Senior Operations Engineer  
R. M. Morris, Senior Operations Engineer  
C. Zoia, Operations Engineer

Approved by: H. Peterson, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

ER 05000315/2014301; 05000316/2014301; July 21, 2014 – August 12, 2014; Indiana Michigan Power Company, Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, Initial License Examination Report.

The announced initial operator licensing examination was conducted by regional U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1.

### Examination Summary:

Sixteen of sixteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Eight applicants were issued senior operator licenses and eight applicants were issued operator licenses. (Section 4OA5.1)

## **REPORT DETAILS**

### 4OA5 Other Activities

#### .1 Initial Licensing Examinations

##### a. Examination Scope

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners and members of the facility licensee's staff used the guidance prescribed in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1, to develop, validate, administer, and grade the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners prepared the outline and developed the written examination and operating test. Because the NRC examiners developed the test outline, they conducted an early validation of the operating test at the station's site-specific simulator during the week of May 5, 2014. After the operating test development was complete, the NRC examiners validated the proposed examination during the week of June 23, 2014, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff. During the onsite validation week, the examiners audited 11 license applications for accuracy. The NRC examiners, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff, administered the operating test, consisting of job performance measures (JPMs) and dynamic simulator scenarios, during the period from July 21 – 31, 2014. The facility licensee administered the written examination on August 4, 2014.

##### b. Findings

###### (1) Written Examination

During the validation of the written examination, several questions were modified or replaced. Changes made to the written examination were documented on Form ES-401-9, "Written Examination Review Worksheet," which is available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS.

On August 12, 2014, during the telephone exit meeting with the plant's Training Manager, Mr. D. Emery, the NRC chief examiner confirmed that there were no post-examination comments being submitted by the facility licensee. The proposed written examination, as well as the final as-administered examination and answer key (ADAMS Accession Number ML14225A518), will be available in 24 months electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS.

The NRC examiners graded the written examination on August 12, 2014, and conducted a review of each missed question to determine the accuracy and validity of the examination questions.

During the validation of the operating test, some modifications were made to the dynamic simulator scenarios. The modifications made to the scenarios were cosmetic in nature and added descriptions of actions to be performed by the applicants. Changes made to the operating test, documented in a document titled, "Operating Test Comments," as well as the final as administered dynamic simulator scenarios and job

performance measures (JPMs), are available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS.

The NRC examiners completed operating test grading on August 12, 2014.

(2) Examination Results

Eight applicants at the Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) level and eight applicants at the Reactor Operator (RO) level were administered written examinations and operating tests. All applicants passed all portions of their examinations and were issued their respective operating licenses on August 29, 2014.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination validation and administration to assure compliance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 55.49, Integrity of Examinations and Tests. The examiners used the guidelines provided in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," to determine acceptability of the licensee's examination security activities.

b. Findings

During the administration of the dynamic simulator scenario portion of the operating test, one annunciator response procedure's place keeping marks had not been completely erased between scenarios. When the applicant in the subsequent scenario retrieved the procedure, the previous place keeping marks were still in the procedure. The NRC considers this to be a security issue, but in minor cases such as this, not a violation of NRC requirements. This event may give an applicant assurance that he is progressing correctly in the scenario and is considered an examination security issue.

40A6 Management Meetings

.1 Debrief

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on August 1, 2014, to Mr. J. Gebbie, Site Vice President, and other members of the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant Operations and Training Department staff.

.2 Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner conducted an exit meeting on August 12, 2014, with Mr. D. Emery, Plant Training Manager by telephone. The chief examiner confirmed that the station had no post-examination comments during the telephone discussion. The examiners asked the licensee whether any of the material used to develop or administer the examination should be considered proprietary. No proprietary or sensitive information was identified during the examination or debrief/exit meetings.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

## **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **KEY POINTS OF CONTACT**

#### Licensee

J. Gebbie, Plant Vice President  
J. Conrad, Initial License Training Lead Instructor  
D. Emery, Plant Training Manager  
B. Evans, Operations Training Manger  
I. Fleetwood, Initial License Training Supervisor  
K. Henderson, Regulatory Affairs  
S. Partin, Plant Manager  
M. Scarpello, Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
S. Schneider, Operations/Site Senior License

#### NRC

D. McNeil, Senior Operations Engineer  
R. M. Morris, Senior Operations Engineer  
C. Zoia, Operations Engineer

### **ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED**

#### Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

## SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant

Facility Docket Nos: 50-315; 50-316

Operating Tests Administered: July 21 – July 31, 2014

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
None	None



L. Weber

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