



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 25, 2014

Mr. Edward D. Halpin, Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Diablo Canyon Power Plant
P.O. Box 56, Mail Code 104/6
Avila Beach, CA 93424

**SUBJECT: DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
05000275/2014301; 05000323/2014301**

Dear Mr. Halpin:

On August 27, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the examination results and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination results were discussed on August 15, 2014, with Mr. Dennis Peterson, Training Director, and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on August 27, 2014, with Mr. John Becera, Supervisor Exam Development and Simulator Support, who was provided the NRC licensing decisions.

The examination included the evaluation of seven applicants for reactor operator licenses, three applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and two applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined all applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued. There were no post-examination comments submitted by your staff. The Enclosure contains details of this report.

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 (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Vincent Gaddy, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Dockets: 50-275; 50-323
Licenses: DPR-80; DPR-82

Enclosure: NRC Examination Report
05000275/2014301; 05000323/2014301

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

Docket: 50-275, 50-323

License: DPR-80, DPR-82

Report: 05000275/2014301; 05000323/2014301

Licensee: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Facility: Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

Location: 7 ½ miles NW of Avila Beach
Avila Beach, California

Dates: August 8, 2014 – August 27, 2014

Inspectors: C. Steely, Chief Examiner, Senior Operations Engineer
C. Osterholtz, Senior Operations Engineer
T. Farina, Operations Engineer
G. Apger, Operations Engineer

Approved By: Vincent Gaddy, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY

ER 05000275/2014301; 05000323/2014301; August 8 – August 27, 2014; Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of seven applicants for reactor operator licenses, three applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses and two applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2.

The licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The written examination was administered by the licensee on August 8, 2014. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on August 11 – August 16, 2014.

The examiners determined that all twelve 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)

40A5 Other Activities (Initial Operator License Examination)

.1 License Applications

a. Scope

NRC examiners reviewed all license applications submitted to ensure each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. Examiners also audited three 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 Examination Development

a. Scope

NRC examiners reviewed integrated examination outlines and draft examinations submitted by the licensee against the requirements of NUREG-1021. The NRC examination team conducted an onsite validation of the operating tests.

b. Findings

NRC examiners provided outline, draft examination and post-validation comments to the licensee. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to examination administration.

NRC examiners determined the written examinations, and operating tests initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

.3 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Scope

On August 8, 2014, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all twelve applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on August 16, 2014.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all applicants from August 11 through August 16, 2014.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

All applicants passed the written examination and all parts of the operating tests. The final written examinations and post-examination analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment. There were no post-examination comments as indicated in the licensee submittal.

The examination team noted the following generic weakness;

- Six of ten applicants failed to take the correct immediate action on a failure of a main feed pump trip at 100 percent power. The applicant was required, per AP 15, "Loss of Feedwater Flow," to recognize that rods were required to be moving in AUTO, recognize they were not and take rod control from AUTO to MANUAL and begin to insert rods. The six applicants all tripped the reactor, placing an unnecessary transient on the plant, and counter to procedural guidance in AP-15. The applicant was required to know these immediate actions from memory. The licensee is addressing this generic weakness with Condition Report SAPN 50643566.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

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

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed examination security for examination development during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with 10 CFR 55.49 and NUREG-1021. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

40A6 Meetings, Including Exit

The chief examiner presented the preliminary examination results to Messrs. Dennis Peterson, Training Director, Dave Gouveia, Operations Manager, and other members of the staff on August 15, 2014. A telephonic exit was conducted on August 27, 2014, between Mr. Chris Steely, Chief Examiner, and Mr. John Becera, Supervisor Exam Development and Simulator Support.

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

R. Fortier, NRC Exam Lead
D. Petersen, Training Director

NRC Personnel

T. Hipschman, Senior Resident Inspector
J. Reynoso, Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML14251A044 - FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS
Accession No. ML14251A041 - FINAL OPERATING TEST
Accession No. ML14251A046 - POST EXAM ANALYSIS

E. Halpin

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Edward D. Halpin from Vince Gaddy, dated September 25, 2014

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