



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

October 27, 2015

Mr. Dennis L. Koehl
President and CEO/CNO
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1
AND 2, NRC EXAMINATION REPORT 05000498/2015301; 05000499/2015301

Dear Mr. Koehl:

On October 15, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the examination results and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination results were discussed on October 1, 2015, with Mr. D. Rencurrel, Senior Vice President, Operations, and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on October 15, 2015, with Mr. S. Mason.

The examination included the evaluation of 6 applicants for reactor operator licenses, 3 applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses and 6 applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined that 12 of the 15 applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued. However, 1 reactor operator applicant, 1 instant senior reactor operator applicant, and 2 upgrade senior reactor operator applicants will have the issuance of their license delayed until any written examination appeals have been reviewed for possible impact on their licensing decisions in accordance with NUREG 1021, Revision 10, ES-501, Section D.3.c. There were no post examination comments submitted by your staff. Enclosure 1 contains the 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 and Procedure," 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 the NRC's

D. Koehl

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Vincent G. Gaddy, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499
Licenses Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80

Enclosures:

1. Examination Report 05000498/2015301
and 05000499/2015301 w/Attachment
2. Simulator Fidelity Report

D. Koehl

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Distribution:

See next page

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML15300A446

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OFFICE	C:OB	C:DRP/B						
NAME	VGaddy	NTaylor						
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/						
DATE	10/27/15	10/23/15						

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Dennis L. Koehl from Vincent G. Gaddy, dated October 27, 2015

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1
AND 2, NRC EXAMINATION REPORT 05000498/2015301; 05000499/2015301

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

Dockets: 05000498, 05000499

Licenses: NPF-76, NPF-80

Report: 05000498/2015301; 05000499/2015301

Licensee: STP Nuclear Operating Company

Facility: South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2

Location: FM 521 - 8 miles west of Wadsworth
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Dates: September 24, 2015 – October 15, 2015

Inspectors: C. Osterholtz, Chief Examiner
T. Farina, Senior Operations Engineer
J. Kirkland, Senior Operations Engineer
M. Bloodgood, Operations Engineer
C. Cowdrey, Operations Engineer
M. Kennard, Operations Engineer
C. Steely, Operations Engineer

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

SUMMARY

ER 05000498/2015301; 05000499/2015301; September 24, 2015 – October 2, 2015; South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of 6 applicants for reactor operator licenses, 3 applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses and 6 applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses at South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2.

The NRC developed the written examination and the operating test outlines, with the licensee generating the final operating test in accordance with the operating test outlines, using NUREG-1021, Revision 10, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The written examination was administered by the licensee on September 24, 2015. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on the week of September 28, 2015.

The examiners determined that 12 of the applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 and the appropriate licenses, as well as three denial letters, have been issued. However, 1 reactor operator applicant, 1 instant senior reactor operator applicant, and 2 upgrade senior reactor operator applicants will have the issuance of their license delayed until any written examination appeals have been reviewed for possible impact on their licensing decisions in accordance with NUREG 1021, Revision 10, ES-501, Section D.3.c.

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

NRC examiners reviewed all license applications submitted to ensure each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. The 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 generated the integrated examination outlines and draft examination material 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 draft examination and post-validation comments to the licensee. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to examination administration.

NRC examiners determined that the 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 September 24, 2015, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examination to all 15 applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on October 14, 2015.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all 15 applicants during the week of September 28, 2015.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

Twelve of the 15 applicants passed the written examination and all 15 applicants passed all parts of the operating test. 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:

- The ability of operating crews to recognize that a power ascension should be secured when responding to an instrument failure while in Mode 2. The licensee generated Condition Report 15-22959-1 to address this issue.
- The ability of operating crews to locate and implement procedures for bypassing a gland steam regulating valve. The licensee generated Condition Report 15-22830-1 to address this issue.
- The ability of operating crews to fully and accurately communicate pertinent information between crew members. The licensee generated Condition Report 15-22959-2 to address this issue.

.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 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

Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented the preliminary examination results to Mr. D. Rencurrel, Senior Vice President, Operations, and other members of the staff on October 1, 2015. A telephonic exit was conducted on October 15, 2015, between Messrs. Clyde Osterholtz, Chief Examiner, and S. Mason, Lead Examination Writer.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

D. Rencurrel, Senior Vice President, Operations
G.T. Powell, Site Vice President
L. Blaylock, CPS Energy
A. Culver, Operations Training Supervisor
T. Frahm, Operations Manager, Unit 2
R. Gibbs, Production Support Manager
G. Hildebrandt, Operations Manager
K. Hilscher, Training Manager
G. Janak, Operations Training Manager
W. Markham, Operations Training
S. Mason, Operations Training
M. Murray, Regulatory Affairs Manager
J. Pierce, Integrated Work Management
R. Savage, Licensing
R. Scarborough, Quality Assurance Manager

NRC Personnel

A. Sanchez, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML15293A563 - FINAL WRITTEN EXAM
(Will be released to the public on September 24, 2017)

Accession No. ML15293A564 – FINAL OPERATING TEST

Accession No. ML15293A565 - POST EXAM ANALYSIS

Facility Licensee: South Texas ProjectFacility Docket No.: 50-498; 50-499Operating Test Administered on: Week of September 28, 2015

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with IP 71111.11, are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

While conducting the simulator portion of the operating tests, examiners observed the following items:

Item	Description
Steam Generator "C" Feedwater Control	Steam Generator "C" feedwater control could not initially be placed in manual in two scenarios. This deficiency was entered into the licensee's corrective action program as DR-2921.
Auxiliary Feedwater Pumps	Tripped auxiliary feedwater pumps momentarily started running in one scenario. This deficiency was entered into the licensee's corrective action program as DR-2922.