



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 27, 2016

Mr. Thomas A. Vehec
Vice President
NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324-9785

**SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER – CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE
EXAMINATION**

Dear Mr. Vehec:

In a telephone conversation on September 26, 2016, between Mr. E. Murray, and Mr. C. Zoia, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations, at the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), during the weeks of June 5 and June 12, 2017. In addition, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) currently plans to make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of May 8, 2017.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 10 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by March 6, 2017. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201, will be due by April 3, 2017. Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations and tests before they are submitted to the Commission for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E to NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

After you have been notified by the NRC Chief Examiner or Branch Chief that operator licenses have been issued, please direct any inquiries concerning a formal presentation of certificates to this office. Our goal is to have the operator certificates available for your celebration. At least 1 month advance notice of your celebration arrangements would be appreciated to plan our senior manager attendance and process the certificates.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by OMB, under approval number 3150-0018. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to BJS1@nrc.gov; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

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T. Vehec

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. E. Murray has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. C. Zoia at 630-829-9863, or me at 630-829-9834.

Sincerely,

/RA Raymond Walton Acting for/

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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