



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

APR 16 1997

Mr. J. V. Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)  
Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Public Power Supply System  
P.O. Box 968  
Richland, Washington 99352-0968

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Dear Mr. Parrish:

In recent weeks, after an internal audit, Region IV has recognized the need for enhanced expectations for the quality of initial licensing examinations developed under the pilot process of Generic Letter 95-06 or the "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Interim Revision 8. These new expectations represent a significant increase in NRC expectations regarding initial licensing examination quality than has been previously communicated by the Region to facility licensees. In several recent meetings with Region IV facility licensee representatives from operations and training organizations, regional management has presented these clarified expectations with regard to facility licensee-developed initial licensing examinations.

Additionally, chief examiners have been communicating these expectations at the staff level to individual facility licensee personnel for facility licensees that have initial examinations scheduled to be administered over the next few months. The thrust of these expectations is that facility licensees will be held to a higher level of quality at the individual test item level than has been previously required. In response to these communications, facility licensee representatives have requested that the NRC provide a forum in which facility licensee personnel involved in examination development can better understand how these expectations translate into actual test items.

On May 29 and 30, 1997, Region IV will host a workshop in its Arlington, Texas, office on test item and examination development to meet agency expectations of facility licensee-developed initial licensing examinations. The workshop will start at 8:30 a.m. on May 29 and conclude by 1 p.m. on May 30. A tentative workshop agenda is attached. Comments are welcome. This workshop will be open to the public.

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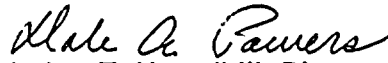
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You are invited and encouraged to send representatives from your organization who are likely to be directly involved in initial licensing examination development. Our facility can accommodate a large number of attendees. However, if you expect to send more than four attendees, please inform us so that we may ensure the room arrangement is appropriate.

Please direct comments or questions to John Pellet, Chief, Operations Branch, Division of Reactor Safety at (817)860-8159 or Stephen McCrory, Workshop Coordinator, Operations Branch at (817)860-8265, or via electronic mail to [jlj@nrc.gov](mailto:jlj@nrc.gov) and [slm@nrc.gov](mailto:slm@nrc.gov), respectively.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Arthur T. Howell III, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-397  
License No.: NPF-21

Enclosure: Tentative Workshop Agenda

cc w/Enclosure:  
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**ENCLOSURE**

**OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**DAY 1 - MAY 29, 1997**

**Introduction (8:30-9 a.m.)**

**Session 1 (9-10 a.m.)**

**Generic Attributes of Good Test Items**

**Session 2 (10:15-11:30 a.m.)**

**Written Examination Questions**

**Session 3 (12:30-2 p.m.)**

**Open Reference Oral Questions (Job Performance Measure and Administrative)**

**Session 4 (2-3 p.m.)**

**Administrative Job Performance Measures**

**Session 5 (3:15-4:30)**

**System Job Performance Measures and Job Performance Measure Sets**

**Session 6 (4:30-5 p.m.)**

**Questions and Answers**

**DAY 2 - MAY 30, 1997**

**Session 7 (8:30-9:30 a.m.)**

**Scenarios and Scenario Sets**

**Session 8 (9:30-10:15 a.m.)**

**Breadth, Depth, Overlap, and Examination Outlines**

**Session 9 (10:30-12 noon)**

**Questions and Answers**

**Closing Remarks (12-12:30 p.m.)**

