



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

November 16, 2017

Thomas D. (Tom) Ray  
Vice President, Oconee Nuclear Station  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC  
7800 Rochester Highway  
Seneca, SC 29672-0752

**SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR  
INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000269/2018301, 05000270/2018301 AND  
05000287/2018301**

Dear Mr. Ray:

In a telephone conversation on November 6, 2017, between Mr. Scott Bowen, Operations Exam Writer, Mr. Sam Lark, NRC Exam Author and Mr. Phillip G. Capehart, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Oconee Nuclear Station. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the week of June 4, 2018. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of June 20, 2018. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of April 30, 2018.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test and written examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 11, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines by January 5, 2018. I provided written examination outlines to your staff in September 2017. The written examinations, operating test and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by March 21, 2018. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations, and test before they are submitted to the NRC 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.

In order 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 of 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 waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. Capehart to determine the method for submission of waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB control number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB control number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the preliminary applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guideline for receiving waiver or excusal requests calls for at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualifications Statement – Licensee," or as directed by Mr. Capehart when contacting him to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement**

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 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under approval number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 2,250 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collections. You may submit comments on any aspect of the information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to FOIA, Privacy and Information Collections Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by electronic mail to [infocollects.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:infocollects.resource@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.

**Public Protection Notification**

The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," 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 (PARS) component of the 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).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Scott Bowen 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. Phillip G. Capehart at (404) 997-4483, (Internet E-mail: [Phillip.Capehart@nrc.gov](mailto:Phillip.Capehart@nrc.gov)), or me at (404) 997-4551, (Internet E-mail: [Gerald.McCoy@nrc.gov](mailto:Gerald.McCoy@nrc.gov))

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Gerald J. McCoy, Chief  
Operations Branch 1  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-269, 50-270, 50-287  
License Nos.: DPR-38, DPR-47, DPR-55

cc: Distribution via Listserv

SUBJECT: OCONEE NUCLEAR STATION – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR  
 INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000269/2018301, 05000270/2018301 AND  
 05000287/2018301 dated November 16, 2017

**Distribution:**

P. Capehart, DRS  
 G. McCoy, DRS  
 PUBLIC

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE       NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE       SENSITIVE       NON-SENSITIVE  
 ADAMS:  Yes      ACCESSION NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_       SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE       FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS					
SIGNATURE	<b>PGC1 EMAIL</b>	<b>GJM1</b>					
NAME	PCAPEHART	GMCCOY					
DATE	11/ 16/2017	11/ 16 /2017					
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO