



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

December 21, 2018

Mr. Tom Simril
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

**SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION NOS. – 05000413/2019301 AND 05000414/2019301**

Dear Mr. Simril:

During a telephone conversation on November 15, 2018, between Mr. Steve Tripi, Operations Training Manager, and Mr. Mark Bates, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Catawba Nuclear Station. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the week of September 9, 2019. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of September 16, 2019. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of August 5, 2019.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test and written examination 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 outline by April 8, 2019. Mr. Bates provided the written examination outline to your staff on October 23, 2018. The written examination, operating test and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by June 21, 2019. 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 outline, examination, 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 NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

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 and/or excusal requests (if any) (Office Management and Budget (OMB) control number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. Mark Bates, chief examiner, to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB control number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB control number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) 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 guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests call 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. Bates 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.

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 OMB under approval number 3150-0018.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2250 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, 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 at infocollectsresource@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.

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 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 document 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. Tripi 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. Bates at (404) 997-4612, (Internet E-mail: Mark.Bates@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4551, (Internet E-mail: Gerald.McCoy@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos.: 50-413, 50-414
License Nos.: NPF-35, NPF-52

cc: Distribution via Listserv

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION NOS. – 05000413/2019301 AND 05000414/2019301 dated December 21, 2018

*See previous page for concurrence

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML 18360A243** SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS			
SIGNATURE	MAB7	GJM1			
NAME	MBATES	GMCCOY			
DATE	12/ 18 /2018	12/ 21 /2018			
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO			