



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

April 24, 2019

Mr. David B. Hamilton
Site Vice President
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Perry Nuclear Power Plant
Reg Affairs–A210
10 Center Road, P.O. Box 97
Perry, OH 44081–0097

**SUBJECT: PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT—NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000440/2019301**

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

On March 12, 2019, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the initial operator licensing examination process for license applicants employed at your Perry Nuclear Power Plant. The enclosed report documents the results of those examinations. Preliminary observations noted during the examination process were discussed on February 15, 2019, with Mr. C. Elliott, Operations Manager, and other members of your staff. An exit meeting was conducted by telephone on March 21, 2019, with Mr. F. Payne, General Plant Manager, other members of your staff, and Mr. J. DeMarshall, Chief Operator Licensing Examiner, to review the final grading of the written examination for the license applicants. The NRC also confirmed that the station submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination comments for consideration during NRC grading of the examination.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the week of February 11, 2019. The written examination was administered by Perry Nuclear Power Plant training department personnel on February 22, 2019. Three Senior Reactor Operator and six Reactor Operator applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on March 25, 2019. Eight applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Three applicants were issued senior operator licenses and five applicants were issued operator licenses. One applicant failed one or more sections of the administered examination and was issued a Preliminary Results Letter.

The written examination, administered operating test, as well as documents related to the development and review (outlines, review comments and resolution, etc.) of the examination will be withheld from public disclosure until March 12, 2021. However, because one applicant received a Preliminary Results Letter due to receiving a non-passing grade on the written examination, the applicant was provided a copy of the written examination material. For examination security purposes, your staff should consider the written examination material uncontrolled and exposed to the public.

This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,

/RA/

Randal D. Baker, Acting Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-440
License No. NPF-58

Enclosures:

1. OL Examination
Report 05000440/2019301
2. Simulator Fidelity Report

cc: Distribution via LISTSERV®
J. Pry, Training Manager

Letter to David B. Hamilton from Randal D. Baker dated April 24, 2019.

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REPORT 05000440/2019301

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 50-440

License No: NPF-58

Report No: 05000440/2019301

Enterprise Identifier: L-2018-OLL-0001

Licensee: FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company

Facility: Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Location: North Perry, Ohio

Dates: February 11, 2019, through March 12, 2019

Examiners: J. DeMarshall, Senior Operations Engineer,
Chief Examiner
G. Roach, Senior Operations Engineer,
Chief Examiner (Under Instruction)
M. Emrich, Senior Reactor Technology Instructor,
Examiner

Approved by: R. Baker, Acting Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY

Examination Report 05000440/2019301; 02/11/2019-03/12/2019; FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, Perry Nuclear Power Plant; Initial License Examination Report.

The announced initial operator licensing examination was conducted by regional Nuclear Regulatory Commission examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11.

Examination Summary

Eight of nine applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Three applicants were issued senior operator licenses and five applicants were issued operator licenses. One applicant failed one or more sections of the administered examination and was issued a Preliminary Results Letter. (Section 4OA5.1)

REPORT DETAILS

4OA5 Other Activities

.1 Initial Licensing Examinations

a. Examination Scope

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners and members of the facility licensee's staff used the guidance prescribed in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11, to develop, validate, administer, and grade the written examination and operating test. The written examination outlines were prepared by the NRC staff and were transmitted to the facility licensee's staff. Members of the facility licensee's staff prepared the operating test outlines and developed the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners validated the proposed examination during the week of January 7, 2019, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff. During the onsite validation week, the examiners audited three license applications for accuracy. The NRC examiners, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff, administered the operating test, consisting of job performance measures and dynamic simulator scenarios, during the period of February 11, 2019, through February 15, 2019. The facility licensee administered the written examination on February 22, 2019.

b. Findings

(1) Written Examination

The NRC examiners determined that the written examination, as proposed by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Less than 20 percent of the proposed examination questions were determined to be unsatisfactory and required modification or replacement.

During the validation of the written examination, several questions were modified or replaced. All changes made to the written examination were made in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and were documented on Form ES-401-9, "Written Examination Review Worksheet." The Form ES-401-9, the written examination outlines (ES-401-1 and ES-401-3), and both the proposed and final written examinations, will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) on March 12, 2021, (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML17215A919, ML17215A921, ML17215A920, and ML17215A922, respectively).

On March 12, 2019, the licensee submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination comments for consideration by the NRC examiners when grading the written examination.

The NRC examiners graded the written examination on March 18, 2019, and conducted a review of each missed question to determine the accuracy and validity of the examination questions.

(2) Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally proposed by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

Following the review and validation of the operating test, minor modifications were made to several job performance measures, and some minor modifications were made to the dynamic simulator scenarios. All changes made to the operating test were made in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and were documented on Form ES-301-7, "Operating Test Review Worksheet." The Form ES-301-7, the operating test outlines (ES-301-1, ES-301-2, and ES-D-1s), and both the proposed and final operating tests, will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS on March 12, 2021, (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML17215A919, ML17215A921, ML17215A920, and ML17215A922, respectively).

The NRC examiners completed operating test grading on March 20, 2019.

(3) Examination Results

Three applicants at the Senior Reactor Operator level and six applicants at the Reactor Operator level were administered written examinations and operating tests.

Eight applicants passed all portions of their examinations. Eight applicants were issued their respective operating licenses on March 25, 2019. One Reactor Operator applicant failed the written examination portion of the administered examination and was issued a Preliminary Results Letter.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination validation and administration to assure compliance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 55.49, "Integrity of Examinations and Tests." The examiners used the guidelines provided in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," to determine acceptability of the licensee's examination security activities.

b. Findings

None.

40A6 Management Meetings

.1 Debrief

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on February 15, 2019, to Mr. C. Elliott, Operations Manager, and other members of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant staff.

.2 Exit Meeting

The chief examiner conducted an exit meeting on March 21, 2019, with Mr. F. Payne, General Plant Manager, and other members of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant staff, by telephone. The chief examiner asked the licensee whether any of the material used to develop or administer the examination should be considered proprietary. No proprietary or sensitive information was identified during the examination or debrief/exit meetings.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

D. Hamilton, Site Vice President
F. Payne, General Plant Manager
C. Elliott, Operations Manager
J. Pry, Training Manager
T. Gaydosik, Fleet Exam Team Lead
M. McFarland, Operations Training Superintendent
L. Vriezen, Initial Training Supervisor
R. Torres, NRC Exam Developer
G. Burnham, Regulatory Affairs Manager

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

J. Steffes, Senior Resident Inspector
J. Nance, Resident Inspector
J. DeMarshall, Senior Operations Engineer, Chief Examiner
G. Roach, Senior Operations Engineer, Chief Examiner (Under Instruction)
M. Emrich, Senior Reactor Technology Instructor, Examiner

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ADAMS	Agencywide Document Access and Management System
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

SIMULATOR FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Perry Nuclear Power Plant

Facility Docket No: 050-440

Operating Tests Administered: February 11, 2019, through February 15, 2019

The following documents observations made by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 55.45(b). These observations do not affect U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
None	N/A