



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

September 6, 2019

Mr. John Dent, Jr.  
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Cooper Nuclear Station  
72676 648A Avenue  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL OPERATOR  
LICENSING EXAMINATION 05000298/2020301

Dear Mr. Dent:

In a telephone conversation on August 23, 2019, between Mr. Thomas J. Farina, senior operations engineer, and Mr. James Florence, Superintendent, Simulator and Training Support, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at Cooper Nuclear Station during the week of April 27, 2020.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (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 operating test outlines by November 25, 2019. The written examination outline was provided to your staff on July 2, 2019. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due, by February 10, 2020. 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 tests 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. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or rescheduled. In addition, your support for on-site validation of the examinations is required during the week of March 23, 2020.

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 along with any video and audio recordings of the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes its licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete. Appendix E to NUREG-1021 contains 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 able). Mr. Farina should be contacted to determine the method for submission of the waiver and/or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB approval number 3150-0090), and medical certifications (OMB approval 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 minimum guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests is 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early in the process as possible (see the 60-day guideline, above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers and/or excusals should be in writing (i.e., on NRC Form 398, or as directed when Mr. Farina is contacted to determine the method for submission). The NRC's final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal will be documented on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant and will not be provided until the final application is submitted to the NRC.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act Statement**

This letter contains information collection requirements 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, approval number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these mandatory information collections is estimated to average 400 hours per examination including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. You may submit comments on any aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the 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 not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a current valid OMB approval number.

This letter 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 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

J. Dent

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Florence 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 Thomas Farina at 817-200-1117, or me at 817-200-1159.

Sincerely,

***/RA John Kirkland Acting for/***

Gregory E. Werner, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298  
License: DPR-46

cc: Electronic Distribution to Cooper Nuclear Station

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