Mr. Norman S. Ellictt Manager, Nuclear Training Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Group P.O. Box 1260 Lynchburg, Virginia 24505

Dear Mr. Elliott:

Enclosed is a letter that was sent to all operating nuclear power plants on October 3, 1974 explaining a new Operator Licensing Branch practice that will involve operators of nuclear power plant simulators.

The new practice will permit facilities to train their personnel and for us to administer operating tests without requiring the facility to be shut down.

As indicated in the letter, applicants will be eligible for these type of examinations providing, among other items, they have received the proper control manipulation training using a nuclear power plant simulator.

I would like to address two points regarding the new practice.

(1) Facility management is responsible for the certification addressed in Section 55.10(a)(6) of 10 CFR Part 55 that states, in part, that the applicant has learned to operate the controls in a competent and safe manner. In so certifying facility management should, of course, consider the training center certification. We will consider the training center certification in determining eligibility to sit for an examination.

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(2) The staff members of the training center are not administering any portion of the AEC examination. Their evaluation of an applicant's ability, knowledge and understanding is not part of the AEC evaluation.

I hope this information will be of use to you.

Sincerely,

P. P. SOLLES

Paul F. Collins, Chief Operator Licensing Branch Directorate of Licensing

Enclosure:

1. Letter to Operating Nuclear Power Plants

OLB R/E General File T-4(1-)

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