

Official file

OCT 24 1989

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369,
50-370, 50-269, 50-270,
50-287
License Nos. NPF-35, NPF-52, NPF-3,
NPF-17, DPR-38, DPR-47,
DPR-55

Duke Power Company
ATTN: Mr. H. B. Tucker, Vice President
Nuclear Production Department
422 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28242

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - MANAGEMENT INFORMATION MEETING ON LICENSED
OPERATOR PHYSICALS

This letter refers to the meeting conducted in the NRC Region II office on August 29, 1989. A management meeting was held to discuss the apparent failure of Duke Power Company to meet the requirement to perform licensed operator medical exams every two years. This occurred on several occasions. A brief summary, a list of attendees, and a copy of your handouts are enclosed.

It is our opinion that this meeting was beneficial, and provided for a better understanding of how your system controlled licensed operator medical examination scheduling.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Albert F. Gibson

Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:

1. List of Attendees
2. Meeting Summary
3. Presentation Handouts

cc w/encls: (See page 2)

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(cc w/encls cont'd - see page 3)

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(cc w/encls cont'd - see page 4)

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bcc w/encls:
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bcc w/encls: Cont'd see page

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bcc w/encls: Cont'd
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MShymlock

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LReyes

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ENCLOSURE 1

MEETING SUMMARY

A management meeting was held in the NRC Region II office on August 29, 1989, to discuss an apparent failure of Duke Power Company (DPC) to meet the licensed operator medical exam two-year requirements.

Stewart D. Ebnetter, NRC Region II, Regional Administrator, opened the meeting. He expressed our desire to better understand how the DPC program worked for controlling physical exams for licensed operators. It appeared that the program had allowed some operator physicals to exceed the two-year requirement.

The DPC presentation included a brief history of the requirements for operator physicals. It was then explained how the new Medical Supervisor at Oconee had identified that some individuals were overdue on their two-year physical exams. DPC then presented the data collected from a review of medical exam documentation at all three sites. They identified the root cause of the problem as an apparent misunderstanding of the meaning of "Every two years." The concept of bracketing license applications between a six-month and six-week window was considered acceptable. It was felt by DPC that this scheduling philosophy was acceptable, even after the April 9-10, 1987, meeting with the NRC which explained the impact of the 10 CFR 55 rule change. It was also indicated that at no time had a licensed operator who had exceeded the two-year period and performed licensed duties, subsequently failed their physical exam.

The meeting was concluded with direction by NRC that biennial should be considered as meaning every two years, date-to-date. It was acknowledged that generic guidance would be forthcoming to the industry on this topic. The Regional Administrator's concern that the shift supervisor be able to continuously, and accurately, determine the qualifications of all actual and potential watch standers was reiterated.

ENCLOSURE 2

LIST OF ATTENDEES

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

S. D. Ebner, Regional Administrator
A. F. Gibson, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
C. W. Hehl, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP)
A. R. Herdt, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 3, DRP
T. A. Peebles, Chief, Operations Branch, Division of Reactor Safety (DRS)
M. B. Shymlock, Chief, Reactor Projects Section 3A, DRP
K. E. Brockman, Chief, Reactor Projects Section 3B, DRP
C. Casto, Chief, Operator Licensing Section 2, DRS
P. H. Skinner, Senior Resident Inspector, Oconee

Nuclear Reactor Regulation

D. B. Matthews, Director, Project Directorate II-3
L. A. Wiens, Project Manager, Project Directorate II-3
S. Guenther, Reactor Engineer, Operator Licensing Branch (by telephone)

Duke Power Company

H. B. Tucker, Vice President, Nuclear Production
R. L. Gill, Technical Systems Manager, Regulatory Compliance
M. S. Tuckman, Station Manager (Oconee)
T. L. McConnell, Station Manager (McGuire)
T. B. Owen, Station Manager (Catawba)
B. Caldwell, Superintendent of Station Services (Catawba)

ENCLOSURE 3

DUKE POWER COMPANY

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION MEETING

OPERATOR LICENSING

AUGUST 29, 1989

DUKE POWER COMPANY
PARTICIPANTS

CORPORATE

HAL TUCKER

VICE PRESIDENT, NUCLEAR PRODUCTION

BOB GILL

MANAGER, REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

OCONEE

MIKE TUCKMAN

STATION MANAGER

MCGUIRE

TONY McCONNELL

STATION MANAGER

CATAWBA

TONY OWEN

STATION MANAGER

BRUCE CALDWELL

SUPERINTENDENT OF STATION SERVICES

DUKE POWER COMPANY
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION MEETINGS
OPERATOR LICENSING
AGENDA

OPENING REMARKS

HAL TUCKER

PRESENTATION

BRUCE CALDWELL

HISTORY

REVIEW OF OPERATOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

MEDICAL EXAM FREQUENCY CRITERIA

MEDICAL EXAM SCHEDULE

ROOT CAUSE

ACTIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE

OTHER PART 55 REQUIREMENTS

CLOSING

HAL TUCKER

HISTORY

FEBRUARY 1, 1972 IMPLEMENTED CURRENT SCHEDULING PROGRAM FOR PHYSICAL EXAMS.

MARCH 25, 1987 REVISED 10 CFR55.21 PUBLISHED.
"A LICENSEE SHALL HAVE A MEDICAL EXAMINATION BY A PHYSICIAN EVERY TWO (2) YEARS".

APRIL 9-10, 1987 PUBLIC REGIONAL MEETINGS. NRC HANDOUT INDICATED NO CHANGE TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION FREQUENCY - I.E., 2 YEARS.

APRIL 22, 1987 DUKE TASK FORCE MET TO REVIEW PART 55 CHANGES, DEVELOPED ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS ALL PART 55 REQUIREMENTS AND DUKE IMPLEMENTATION.

MAY 26, 1987 ALL PART 55 CHANGES EFFECTIVE.

JULY - SEPTEMBER, 1987 MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED COMPUTER PROGRAM TO MONITOR ALL PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR OPERATOR PHYSICALS. (ALL STATIONS)

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

JULY 24, 1989

NEW MEDICAL UNIT SUPERVISOR AT OCONEE WAS REVIEWING SCHEDULING PROGRAM. AN EFFORT WAS UNDERWAY TO COMBINE PHYSICALS WHERE PRACTICAL SUCH THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WOULD NOT HAVE TO HAVE TWO (2) PHYSICALS IN THE SAME YEAR.

SUPERVISOR INTERPRETATION WAS MAXIMUM OF TWO YEARS BETWEEN MEDICAL EXAMS.

FOUND FIVE (5) INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE OVERDUE AT OCONEE, INITIALLY.

PROMPTLY INITIATED DETAILED REVIEWS AT ALL THREE STATIONS.

COMPARISON HIGHLIGHTS IN PART 55 BETWEEN NOW AND NEW

	<u>NOW</u>	<u>NEW</u>
Eligibility	ES 109	Same but INPO accredited and simulation facility can substitute
Medical examinations	Every 2 years	Same
Renewal	2 years	6 years with NRC administered requalification examination and operating test
Expiration	2 years	6 years or by facility
Requalification:		
Written examination	Annually	Up to every 2 years
Operating test	None	Annually
Systematic evaluation	Required	Same except under systematic approach to training (INPO)

REVIEW OF OPERATOR MEDICAL
EXAMINATIONS

RESULTS:	<u>ONS</u>	<u>MNS</u>	<u>CNS</u>
TOTAL LICENSED OPERATORS	118	82	80
NUMBER OF OPERATORS WITH MEDICAL EXAMS OUTSIDE TWO (2) YEARS (SINCE 5/26/87)	55	38	40 ⁽¹⁾
NUMBER EXAMINED/PASSED	55 ⁽²⁾	38 ⁽³⁾	40 ⁽⁴⁾

- (1) THREE (3) WENT OVER 24 MONTHS TWICE.
- (2) AT TIME OF FINDING, FIVE (5) WERE BEYOND (2) YEARS.
- (3) AT TIME OF FINDING, ALL WERE CURRENT.
- (4) AT TIME OF FINDING, SEVEN (7) WERE BEYOND (2) YEARS.

SIGNIFICANCE OF GOING BEYOND TWO YEARS

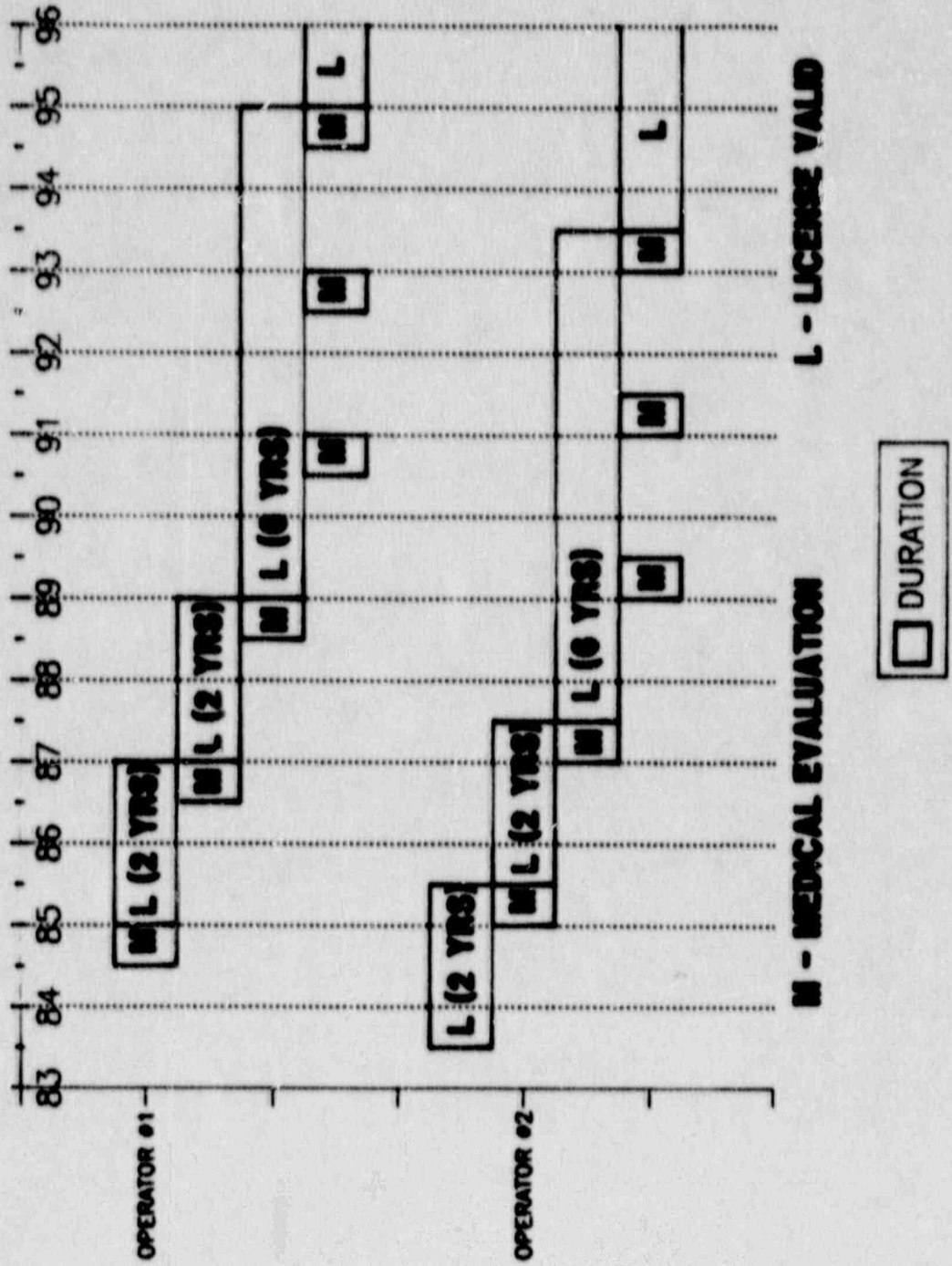
- ROUTINE RESPIRATORY EXAM OCCURS ANNUALLY, MEDICAL HISTORY IS TAKEN. IF NECESSARY, DOCTOR WOULD EXAMINE BASED ON COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL FINDINGS AND HISTORY.

- MEDICAL STAFF HAS REVIEWED ALL AFFECTED INDIVIDUAL PHYSICALS. THERE WERE NO FINDINGS THAT WOULD PREVENT INDIVIDUALS FROM PERFORMING LICENSE DUTIES.

MEDICAL EXAM FREQUENCY CRITERIA

- SUBMITTED ALONG WITH LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
- MEDICAL EXAMS WERE VALID UP TO SIX (6) MONTHS PRIOR TO NRC RECEIPT OF RENEWAL APPLICATION
- BUT, THE EXAMS MUST HAVE BEEN GIVEN AT LEAST SIX (6) WEEKS PRIOR TO LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE

MEDICAL EXAM SCHEDULE



ROOT CAUSE

- APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING OF MEANING "EVERY TWO YEARS".
 - CONCEPT OF BRACKETING LICENSE APPLICATIONS BETWEEN THE SIX (6) MONTH AND SIX (6) WEEK WINDOW
 - HAD BEEN USING THIS SCHEDULING PHILOSOPHY SINCE 1972 AND THE APRIL 9-10, 1987 MEETING INDICATED "NO CHANGE"

ACTIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE

- A LETTER SENT TO MEDICAL STAFF TO ENSURE MEDICAL EXAMS ARE CONDUCTED ON A FREQUENCY OF NOT TO EXCEED 24 MONTHS.
- SEEK NRC FORMAL INTERPRETATION ON MEDICAL EXAM FREQUENCY.
- REVISE PROGRAMS AS NECESSARY AFTER RECEIPT OF FORMAL NRC INTERPRETATION.

REVIEW OF OTHER PART 55 REQUIREMENTS

- DUKE TASK FORCE IN APRIL 1987 CONDUCTED COMPLETE REVIEW OF PART 55.
- ESTABLISHED MULTI-STEP ACTION PLAN TO SET UP PROGRAMS TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF PART 55.
- ALL ACTION PLAN ITEMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SIMULATOR CERTIFICATIONS (WHICH ARE DUE 1991).
- RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION:
 - LICENSED OPERATOR
 - MEDICAL STAFF
 - PRODUCTION SUPPORT DEPARTMENT
 - STATION OPERATIONS
- REASONABLE CONFIDENCE IN EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS BASED ON QA AUDIT, INPO ACCREDITATION/EVALUATIONS AND NRC APPROVAL OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS SINCE MAY 1987.