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

January 24, 2020

Mr. James Barstow
Vice President, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
and Support Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, LP 4A-C
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000390/2020301, and 05000391/2020301

Dear Mr. Barstow:

In a telephone conversation on January 15, 2020, between Mr. Tim Gabosch, Operations Training Examination Lead, and Mr. David Dumbacher, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. The on-site preparatory week is scheduled for the week of July 20, 2020. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the week of August 24, 2020. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of September 7, 2020.

As agreed upon during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 11 to 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 outlines by March 27, 2020. Mr. Dumbacher provided the written examination outline to your staff on January 9, 2020. The written examination, operating test, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by June 10, 2020. Pursuant to Title 10 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 rescheduled.

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 licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

Appendix E to 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 or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. Dumbacher 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) and medical certifications (OMB control 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 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. Dumbacher 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 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 voluntary information collections is estimated to average 2,250 hours per examination or response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collections. You may submit comments on any aspect of the information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to FOIA, Privacy and Information Collections Branch (T-5F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by electronic mail to 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.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the document requesting or requiring the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," of the agency's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible on the NRC's Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Gabosch 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. Dumbacher at (404)-997-4628, (david.dumbacher@nrc.gov or me at (404)-997-4551, (gerald.mccoy@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-390, 50-391
License No. NPF-90, NPF-96

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DISTRIBUTION:
D. Dumbacher, RII
G. McCoy, RII

* See previous page for concurrence

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OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS				
NAME	D.DUMBACHER	G.MCCOY				
DATE	1/ 24 /2020	1/24 /2020				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO				

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