



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 27, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: William Dircks, Executive Director
for Operations

FROM: Nunzio J. Palladino *NJP*

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

Last week I learned of preliminary evidence that cheating may have taken place in written examinations for reactor operator licensing at TMI-1. It was clear that there may be deficiencies in the way NRC conducts these written examinations.

Please make an in-depth review of corrective actions to improve the administration of operator examinations. You should consider findings from the ongoing investigation, but do not await completion of the investigation if prompt actions appear necessary. Adequate proctoring and spacing between participants should be major aspects of the review.

I appreciate that written tests are only one part of the overall examination process and that totality of performance is used in determining operator qualifications. Nevertheless, your review should focus on each part of the process to eliminate as much as possible any opportunity for cheating.

Please forward your conclusions and recommendations not later than August 28.

cc: Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne
SECY
GIA

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