

FORD NUCLEAR REACTOR  
REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM

for

LICENSED REACTOR OPERATORS  
and  
LICENSED SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS

LICENSE NO. R-28

DOCKET NO. 50-2

The University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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## OPERATOR REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM

### 1. INTRODUCTION

During each calendar year, a comprehensive written requalification examination is administered to all NRC licensed operators at the Ford Nuclear Reactor. The examination is of equal scope and difficulty to the license examinations administered by examiners from the Operator Licensing Branch of the NRC. Annually, an operator performance evaluation is made of each operator during a reactivity manipulation. If any deficient areas are discovered during the requalification examination or operational performance evaluation, a retraining program is initiated for licensed operators in the areas of deficiency.

### 2. REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM

- 2.1 Annual Written Requalification Examination. A comprehensive annual written requalification examination is given to all licensed operators. The examination includes questions on subjects as specified in ~~10CFR55.21~~ for operators and ~~10CFR55.22~~ for senior operators. Examination questions are of comparable complexity to questions given at the facility during NRC administered license examinations. } *Specific Subjects*
- 2.2 Operator Performance Evaluation. Annually, the performance and competence of licensed operators is observed and evaluated during a reactor reactivity manipulation. In preparation for the performance evaluation, licensed operators are required to review all abnormal and emergency procedures. The evaluation includes an oral examination on all abnormal and emergency procedures and the operator's actions and responsibilities during emergency conditions.
- 2.3 Examination and Performance Standards.
- 2.3.1 A licensed operator who scores 80% or higher in all areas of the annual written requalification examination and demonstrates the ability to operate the reactor safely in the operator performance evaluation is thereby requalified.
- 2.3.2 A requalification examination score below 80% in any area requires the licensed operator to participate in a retraining program in the areas of deficiency.
- 2.3.3 An overall requalification examination score below 70% requires that management review all aspects of the operator's performance and complete an Operator Performance Evaluation within one week to determine his competence to operate the reactor safely and whether removal from licensed duties is warranted. Participation in and successful completion of an accelerated retraining program is required.



### 3. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 3.1 Reactivity Manipulations. Semi-annually, each licensed operator is reviewed with regard to the number of reactivity manipulations performed or directed over the previous six month period to assure that five or more manipulations are completed in a distributed fashion over each annual requalification period. Reactivity manipulations may be any combination of reactor start-ups, shutdowns or other manipulations that demonstrate skill and familiarity with reactivity control systems and procedures.
- 3.2 NRC License Renewal. An operator whose license is due for renewal while he is in a requalification program is provided with a letter of certification indicating that he is currently enrolled in the requalification program. The letter of certification indicates the anticipated date when that requalification program will be completed for the individual.
- 3.3 Extended Absence From Operation. A licensed operator who has not participated in reactor operation for four or more months is given an oral examination by the Reactor Manager or Assistant Reactor Manager on facility and procedure changes and performs a reactivity manipulation before being reassigned regular operational duties at the facility, provided the operator is up to date on the annual requalification examination. The results of the oral and performance examination provide the basis for recertification of competence to the NRC as required by 10CFR55.31 (e).
- 3.4 NRC License Examination. Successful completion of the initial NRC licensing examination satisfies the licensee's annual retraining requirements. Such an individual's retraining program is started with the next comprehensive examination scheduled at least 6 months after the licensee's initial licensing date.
- 3.5 Requalification Examination Exemptions. The Reactor Manager, Assistant Reactor Manager and Supervisor of Reactor Operators are responsible for the preparation, grading, and evaluation of the results of the requalification examination, operator performance evaluation, and any subsequent retraining effort. They are thereby considered as having satisfactorily completed the examination and performance evaluation.

### 4. RECORDS

The following records are retained at the facility for a period of five years.

- 4.1 Examinations. Written examinations taken by licensed operators during each requalification period including the requalification examination, retraining examinations, and accelerated retraining examinations.

- 4.2 Examination Review Sheet. Examination review sheets that indicate the licensed operator's score for each area of the requalification examination and scores on retraining and accelerated retraining examinations in areas of deficiency.
- 4.3 Operator Performance Evaluation Record. Observational records completed when observing the licensed operator's operational performance including a description of the reactor reactivity manipulation performed and the areas covered in the oral examination on abnormal and emergency procedures.
- 4.4 Retraining Schedule. Retraining and accelerated retraining schedules developed for each licensed operator requiring retraining or accelerated retraining.
- 4.5 Reactivity Manipulation Summary. Summaries of the reactivity manipulations for licensed operators involved in the requalification program.