



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

PDR

DEC 15 1992

Docket No. 55-31903

Mr. Keith A. Knudtson

[ADDRESS WITHHELD]

Dear Mr. Knudtson:

In response to your letter dated September 2, 1992, we have reconsidered the proposed license denial issued to you on August 19, 1992, and have reviewed the grading of the operating test administered to you on July 17, 1992, along with the information you supplied contesting the grading. As a result of our review we have rescinded your failure of Section C, "Integrated Plant Operations," of the operating test, and will hold in abeyance a licensing decision until the NRC reexamines you on Section C of the operating test.

Based on our review of the results of Section C of your operating test, we have determined that you demonstrated weaknesses in both operational and communication skills while fulfilling the role of both an RO and an SRO. Specifically, you did not demonstrate the ability to function within the control room team as appropriate to the assigned position, in such a way that the facility licensee's procedures are adhered to and that the limitations in its license and amendments are not violated as discussed in 10 CFR 55.45(a)(13).

We particularly focused our review on your performance during the scenario where an RO candidate was in the SRO position. This scenario resulted in your crew entering the functional recovery procedure FR-P.1, "Response to Imminent Pressurized Thermal Shock Conditions," the red path emergency operating procedure for reactor coolant system integrity concerns. Entry into this procedure was required because your crew allowed an excessive steam demand and subsequent overcooling event to persist for an extended period of time. Based on the lack of effective decision making and communications, it is possible that the presence of an RO candidate in the SRO position may have influenced the functional capabilities of the control room team. However, the extent to which your performance on this scenario was affected by having an RO candidate in the SRO position is indeterminate.

We noted that several of the demonstrated weaknesses occurred in the scenario when the RO candidate was in the SRO position. Despite some training and exposure as an EOP reader, the RO candidate had not been trained to fulfill a supervisory position and his participation in the capacity of an SRO may have had some impact on your ability to function within the control room team. Therefore, we have determined that the results of Section C of your operating test are inconclusive. The NRC will reexamine you on Section C of the

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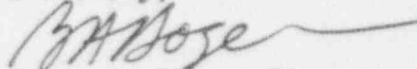
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operating test to verify that you can demonstrate an understanding of and the ability to perform the actions necessary to accomplish a representative sample of the items identified in 10 CFR 55.45.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert M. Gallo, at 301-504-1031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "BA Boger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce A. Boger, Director
Division of Reactor Controls
and Human Factors, NRR

cc: T. Joyce, Station Manager
Zion Generating Station

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert M. Gallo, at 301-504-1031.

Sincerely,

IS/

Bruce A. Boger, Director
Division of Reactor Controls
and Human Factors, NRR

cc: T. Joyce, Station Manager
Zion Generating Station

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