



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

August 3, 1982

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks, Executive Director
for Operations
FROM: *John C. Hoyle*
John C. Hoyle, Acting Secretary
SUBJECT: SECY-82-232 - USE OF NON-PLANT SPECIFIC
SIMULATORS FOR INITIAL, REPLACEMENT, AND
REQUALIFICATION EXAMINATIONS FOR LICENSED
REACTOR OPERATORS AND SENIOR OPERATORS

This is to advise you that the Commission (with all Commissioners agreeing) has approved your recommendations that:

- (1) for power reactors with a plant-specific simulator, continue the requirements of a simulator licensing exam of all new and replacement candidates and require, for the NRC-administered requalification exam, a simulator exam of at least 20% (per year) of the currently licensed operators, and
- (2) for power reactors without a plant-specific simulator, require an operating test (oral exams) in accordance with 10 CFR §55.23 as well as a written exam of all new and replacement candidates and require, for the NRC-administered requalification exams, oral and written exams of at least 20% (per year) of the currently licensed operators.

The Commission indicated that written exams are important in the assessment of operator qualifications and should not be deleted. Written exams of at least 20% (per year) of the licensed operators should be added to the simulator exam of at least 20% (per year) of the licensed operators for NRC requalification testing for plants with plant-specific simulators.

In addition, the Commission approved the two recommendations of OPE (July 6 memo). In response to this approval you should:

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- (1) Prepare procedures that assure near equivalency between examinations at plants with and without simulators; and
- (2) describe, as part of your July 1983 status report to the Commission on the staff program for improving the examination process, the experience gained in implementing SECY-82-232, and provide recommendations for any changes in the examination process based on such experience.

The Commission also requests that you consider rulemaking to require plant specific simulators and include a recommendation in your next status report.

(EDO) (SECY SUSPENSE: July 1, 1983)

cc: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Ahearne
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
OGC
OPE