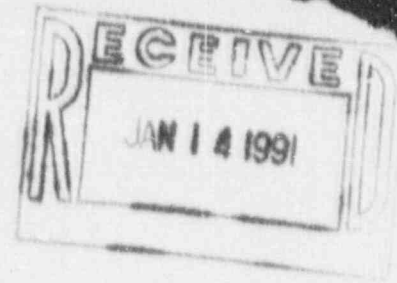


WOLF CREEK

NUCLEAR OPERATING CORPORATION



John A. Bailey
Vice President
Nuclear Operations

January 11, 1991
NO 91-0010

Mr. R. D. Martin, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Reference: Letter NO 90-0288 dated November 18, 1990 from
J. A. Bailey, WCNOG, to R. D. Martin, NRC
Subject: Docket No. 50-482: Licensed Operator Requalification
Re-examinations

Dear Mr. Martin:

The purpose of this letter is to document Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation's (WCNOG) request to have NRC Region IV evaluate the re-examination of six licensed operators who failed to successfully complete portions of the recently administered NRC evaluated licensed operator requalification examination. The requalification examination was administered at Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) October 22 through November 2, 1990. On January 8, 1991, the request to have NRC evaluate the re-examination was discussed in a teleconference between NRC Region IV and WCNOG personnel. Successful completion of the re-examinations would be the basis for allowing these individuals to resume watchstanding activities and to support the reconstitution of the WCGS operating crew shift rotation.

WCNOG has thoroughly reviewed each of these individuals performance during the original requalification examination, established the basis for his failure and the specific remediation needed. The specified remediation for these individuals will be completed by January 18, 1991. WCNOG will determine that each individual is prepared for re-examination. Details of each individuals performance and remediation will be made available to your staff upon request.

As discussed with Region IV personnel, five written examinations, three dynamic simulator examinations and three job performance measures examinations will be administered the week of January 21, 1991. For the five individuals who failed either the written examination or dynamic simulator examination as graded by the NRC, this re-examination will be evaluated by the NRC as a basis for license renewal. Successful completion of these re-examinations constitutes NRC concurrence for returning the individuals to control room watchstanding activities.

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During the first requalification training cycle following the 1990 NRC administered examination, control room operators and licensed operations staff were remediated for the generic weaknesses identified as a result of the dynamic simulator examinations. This remediation included simulator sessions on Power Operated Relief Valve (PORV) controls, steam dump operation, use of functional restoration procedures and immediate boration requirements. Specific guidance on PORV controls included stressing that the PORV block valves do not automatically re-open when pressure increases above the reset point and identification in emergency operating procedures of the guidance for re-opening the block valves. Specific guidance on steam dump operation included a review of steam dump switches, controllers, indicators and actuation signals. Specific guidance on immediate boration requirements included identifying off-normal procedure entry conditions requiring immediate boration and a review of the different methods for immediate boration. The review of these generic weaknesses was included in lesson plan LR 2099001, "Crew Training". During this requalification cycle, simulator training time was significantly increased with additional emphasis placed on procedure usage including emergency operating procedures and Critical Safety Function Status Trees, control board manipulations, and maintaining a broad perspective of plant status during abnormal conditions.

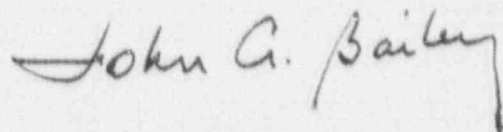
In the Reference, WCNOG committed to utilizing those individuals that passed the NRC observed dynamic simulator examinations on November 21, 1990 to supplement when necessary (e.g. illness or vacations) the current control room crews. This commitment further stated that not more than one individual would be utilized on any operating crew unless unusual circumstances exist or NRC concurrence has been obtained. Based upon actions completed during the first requalification training cycle, WCNOG proposes that this commitment to this additional administrative control is no longer required.

Subsequent to the satisfactory completion of the re-examinations during the week of January 21, 1991, WCNOG proposes to reconstitute the WCGS operating crew shift rotation from a five crew rotation to a six crew rotation. In addition to the actions described above, those crews reconstituted by the shifting of two or more licensed operators will be given a dynamic simulator examination prior to serving as a crew in the plant. This examination will consist of two scenarios evaluated by WCNOG evaluators and the Manager Operations. After this reconstitution of the operating crews, permanent changes in crew personnel may be made by WCNOG as deemed necessary.

NRC administered requalification examinations of at least twelve individuals has been scheduled for the week of August 12, 1991. Additionally, the three remaining individuals who failed the dynamic simulator portion of the examination in October 1990 will receive an NRC evaluated re-examination during this week. Corrective actions identified to restore the licensed operator requalification training program to the required level of performance will be completed prior to July 31, 1991. The satisfactory completion of these NRC administered examinations and identified corrective actions provide the basis for restoring the licensed operator requalification training program to a satisfactory status.

If you have any comments regarding this matter, please contact me or Mr. H. K. Chernoff of my staff.

Very truly yours,



John A. Bailey
Vice President
Nuclear Operations

JAB/aem

cc: L. J. Callan (NRC)
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