

February 9, 1982



SECY-82-56

**POLICY ISSUE**  
(Information)

For: The Commissioners

From: William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: STATUS OF REACTOR OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS PEER REVIEW PANEL  
(M810618A)

Purpose: To inform the Commissioners of progress and schedule of the  
Reactor Operator Qualifications Peer Review Panel

Discussion: The Reactor Operator Qualifications Peer Review Panel has met twice, on November 16-18, 1981, and January 12-13, 1982. The first meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, at Battelle's Human Affairs Research Center, our contractor's offices. The first meeting was an information gathering session at which the Federal members, who were generally unfamiliar with nuclear power operations, were familiarized with the issues involved in this area. This was accomplished through: (1) interaction with the consultants to the Panel, (2) review of background papers assembled by Battelle staff which discussed various alternatives to establishing personnel qualifications, and (3) a presentation by AIF and INPO similar to their presentation to the Commission on September 16, 1981, discussing the utility industry position.

At the conclusion of the first meeting, the Panel identified additional information needs, developed a list of issues to be addressed at the next meeting, and arranged for individual visits to nuclear power plants and simulator training facilities.

The second meeting was preceded by a one day workshop with many of the attendees being utility personnel who would be affected by a change in operator qualifications requirements. These included operators, operations managers, personnel representatives, recruiters and utility managers from Region V utilities. Four Panel members and two consultants were also present. Region V utilities were represented because of their proximity to the meeting site. The purpose of the workshop was to bring

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together the Panel members and affected utility representatives to exchange ideas and to further educate the Panel members. The Panel members indicated that participation in the workshop tended to reinforce the information already assimilated.

The second Panel meeting (January 12-13) was held in San Diego, California. The agenda for their meeting included a review of the workshop, discussion of plant and simulator visits, a presentation by Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director, NRR, development of recommendations and scheduling for the preparation of the Panel report.

Mr. Denton presented the background for the staff recommendation regarding operator qualifications which included a bachelor's degree requirement for Shift Supervisors. This approach would provide for two different career paths. Individuals with a baccalaureate degree would first be licensed as SROs and then advance to Shift Supervisor with the potential for advancement to other utility positions. Individuals with only a high school diploma would start at the Auxiliary Operator position and end as a SRO unless a baccalaureate degree had been obtained.

The Panel focused on four fundamental questions when developing their recommendation. These were:

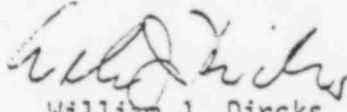
- . What are the advantages and disadvantages of requiring a college degree for current and future SS, SRO and RO positions?
- . If a college degree is not required, what educational requirements are appropriate for SS, SRO and RO positions?
- . What are the appropriate experience requirements for SS, SRO and RO positions?
- . Should the Shift Supervisor be a separately licensed position?

A report containing the views of all Panel members is being prepared. The report will address each question identified above. The schedule agreed to by the Panel is provided in Enclosure 1.

The Peer Panel Chairman and the members indicated that they would be available to present and discuss their recommendations with the Commissioners. In addition to specific educational

requirements recommendation, the Panel will also include in their report issues such as Job/Task Analysis, examinations, staffing and simulators usage as related to the qualifications issue.

No further meetings of the Panel are planned.



William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:  
Peer Review Panel Reporting Schedule

Enclosure 1

REACTOR OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS  
PEER REVIEW PANEL REPORTING SCHEDULE

Draft report prepared by Chairman and Battelle Staff	February 5
Responses to draft from Panel and consultants	February 26
Redraft for Panel approval	March 12
Submittal of approved report to NRC staff	March 26
Panel briefing for Commission	To be scheduled in early April