

DCS

JUL 24 1991

Docket No. 50-333

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation
New York Power Authority
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Beedle:

SUBJECT: Operator Evaluation Report No. 50-333/91-09 (OL)

During the week of June 10, 1991, the NRC conducted a special evaluation to assess the adequacy of your written requalification examination process and to conduct retake requalification examinations. This special evaluation was conducted as outlined in a letter from W. Fernandez on May 10, 1991, and Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) 1-91-010 dated May 15, 1991. The examination was conducted in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," Revision 6. At the conclusion of the evaluation, results and findings related to the administration of the requalification examinations were discussed with members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

As a result of this reexamination, one Senior Reactor Operator and one Reactor Operator failed the dynamic simulator portion of the examination. This is the second attempt by these operators to satisfactorily complete an NRC administered requalification examination. These operators must be examined by NRC staff on a mutually agreeable date. They will be administered a complete requalification examination in accordance with the Examiner Standards since they are each considered second failures.

The NRC staff concluded that the unsatisfactory operator performance on the written examinations conducted the week of April 29, 1991, was due to weaknesses in the examination development process and not to a knowledge or ability weakness of the plant operating personnel. Section 3 and, in particular, section 3.5, of the enclosed report provides more details. We request that you respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter and provide: (1) your perspective and lessons learned on the written examination process weaknesses, and (2) any additional actions taken or planned corrective actions not previously provided on this issue.

Section 3.1 of the enclosed Report details the status of CAL 1-91-010. Commitment Nos. 1 through 5 have been met and require no additional NRC staff review. Short term training corrective actions (Commitment No. 6) appear to be incomplete in that the unsatisfactory crew performance during the dynamic

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simulator examination on June 13, 1991, was due, in part, to the failure of the crew to correctly implement Emergency Operating Procedure (EOP-3), "Failure to Scram." The crew's unsatisfactory performance indicates that training on the use of EOP-3 was not entirely effective.

As discussed in the CAL, the licensed operator requalification program would be considered "Provisionally Satisfactory" when the short term training corrective actions (embodied in Commitment No. 6) are completed, certified in writing to NRC Region 1 Administrator, and verified by NRC staff. Further, since the unsatisfactory results were related to the written examination process weakness, we also intend to review your response to this letter in our deliberations to consider whether your program would be "Provisionally Satisfactory." It is expected that long term corrective actions (embodied in Commitment No. 7) will be completed by April 1992. At the present time, your licensed operator requalification program remains unsatisfactory.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. The responses directed by this letter are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. 86-511.

Should you have any questions regarding this evaluation, please contact Mr. Richard Conte, Chief, BWR Section, at (215) 337-5210.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Marvin W. Hodges

Marvin W. Hodges, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: Requalification Evaluation Report No. 50-333/91-09 (OL)
w/Attachments

cc w/encl.; w/o Attachments:

J. Brons, President
G. Goldstein, Assistant General Counsel
R. Converse, Resident Manager
J. Gray, Director Nuclear Licensing - BWR
Dept. of Public Service, State of New York
State of New York, Department of Law
Supervisor, Town of Scriba
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New York, SLO Designee

cc w/encl. and Attachments:

D. Simpson, Training Superintendent
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

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bcc w/encl.; w/o Attachments:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encl.; w/o Attachments)
Chief, OLB, NRR
B. McCabe, NRR
K. Brockman, EDO
R. Capra, NRR
J. Joyner, DRSS
C. Cowgill, DRP
D. Vito, DRP
D. Haverkamp, DRP
L. Bettenhausen, DRS
R. Conte, DRS
C. Sisco, DRS
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DRS Files (3)

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