

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OPERATOR LICENSING INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT

REPORT NO.: 50-128/OL-92-01
FACILITY DOCKET NO.: 50-128
FACILITY LICENSE NO.: R-83
FACILITY: Texas Engineering Experiment Station
EXAMINATION DATES: January 14-16, 1992

EXAMINER: Frank Collins, Chief Examiner

SUBMITTED BY:

Frank Collins
Frank Collins, Chief Examiner

1/29/92
Date

APPROVED BY:

James L. Caldwell
James L. Caldwell, Chief
Non-Power Reactor Section
Operator Licensing Branch
Division of Licensee Performance
and Quality Evaluation, NRR

1/29/92
Date

SUMMARY:

NRC initial operator license examinations were conducted during the week of January 13, 1992 for two senior reactor operator (instant) (SROI), one senior reactor operator (upgrade) (SROU), and one reactor operator (RO) applicants. The SROU applicant passed the operating examination.

One SROU applicant passed both the written and operating examinations.

One SROI applicant failed both the written and operating examinations.

The RO applicant failed the written examination and passed the operating examination.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Examiner:
Frank Collins, Chief Examiner

2. Results:

	<u>RO</u> <u>(Pass/Fail)</u>	<u>SRO</u> <u>(Pass/Fail)</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>(Pass/Fail)</u>
NRC Grading:	0/1	2/1	2/2

3. Written Examination:

A written examination was administered to one RO and two SRO1 applicants. Facility comments, which have all been accepted by NRC and incorporated in final grading, are listed in Enclosure 2, Nuclear Science Center Letter 92-130.

4. Operating Examinations:

An operating examination was administered to one RO, two SRO1 and one SROU applicants.

5. Exit Meeting:

An exit meeting was conducted by Chief Examiner and was attended by Dr. Daniel Reece, Director and Mr. Bill Asher, Manager of Reactor Operations. The written examination was reviewed and facility comments and recommendations were discussed.

Generic weaknesses noted during the operating examinations were discussed. Applicants had difficulty describing what constitutes reactor controls and citing the standard operating procedure definition of an unreviewed safety question, although an understanding of the concepts of an unreviewed safety question is required knowledge only of the SRO applicants. During the walk-through portions of the examinations, all applicants had difficulty explaining the sampling valve lineups and physical arrangements of facility air monitor system detectors. An overall unfamiliarity with the relationships between secondary coolant system operation and secondary coolant chemistry was demonstrated by three of the four applicants.

All RO and SRO applicants had difficulty connecting special instrumentation required for pulsing operations. Monitoring of plant response to pulsing operations to confirm receipt of expected response varied greatly between applicants. In some cases monitoring plant response consisted only of completion of the pulse stamp in the operating log; and in one case, abnormal plant response was completely overlooked.

A general unfamiliarity with the 10 CFR 55.13 requirements concerning manipulation of controls by non-licensed personnel was observed and discussed with facility management. Two applicants expressed an understanding that well trained and experienced maintenance technicians may operate reactor controls in performance of their approved duties if supervised by a licensed operator. Facility management agreed that this understanding is not in accordance with the regulations and indicated that operating personnel will be reminded of the 10 CFR 55 requirements.

Each of the above observations is discussed in detail in the individual operator's license or denial letter as it applies to the operator.