

October 20, 1995

Mr. D. M. Smith
Senior Vice President-Nuclear
PECO Energy
Nuclear Group Headquarters
Correspondence Control Desk
P. O. Box 195
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-0195

SUBJECT: EXAMINATION REPORT NOS. 50-277/95-20 AND 278/95-20 (OL)

Dear Mr. Smith:

During the period of August 17, 1995, to September 1, 1995, the NRC administered initial examinations to 11 employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3. At the conclusion of the examinations, the preliminary findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

All of the reactor operator applicants passed the initial examinations and were subsequently issued licenses. Three of the eight senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants passed the initial examinations and were subsequently issued licenses. One SRO applicant failed the written examination. One SRO applicant failed both the written and simulator portion of the operating examination. Three SRO operator applicants failed the simulator portion of the operating examination. Generic weaknesses were identified in both the written and operating portion of the examination and are detailed in the examination report.

The results of this examination reflect an unexpected poor level of performance in the simulator. Two of the three scenarios used were newly developed by the NRC examiners, and one of the scenarios was based on a scenario from your examination bank. The poor performance was based solely on the observations during the NRC-developed scenarios. We acknowledge that the NRC-developed scenarios were challenging. Notwithstanding, the responses of the SRO applicants indicated weaknesses in prioritization and maintaining awareness of the critical parameters and then directing actions, in accordance with the facility procedures, appropriate to the situation. These weaknesses resulted in the various crew responses to substantially lag behind the timeline required in the scenario. Consequently, the critical parameters in the scenario degraded considerably more than expected. It was these weaknesses, rather than specific dynamic simulator parameter values or limits, that were used as the basis for determining the individual pass/fail decisions as summarized above.

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A review of the examination results from the August 1994 examination also identified some poor applicant performance. We would like to understand your assessment of the examination results on both the written and operating portion of this year's and last year's examinations. We will contact your staff separately to establish a mutually-agreeable forum to obtain your assessment.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Don Florek of my staff at (610) 337-5185 or me at (610) 337-5198.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Modes, Acting Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-277; 50-278

Enclosure: Examination Report Nos. 50-277/95-20
and 50-278/95-20 (OL) w/Attachments 1-5

cc w/encl; w/o Attachments 1-5:

G. A. Hunger, Jr., Chairman, Nuclear Review Board and Director, Licensing
G. Rainey, Vice President, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
W. H. Smith, III, Vice President, Nuclear Station Support
D. B. Fetters, Director, Nuclear Engineering
C. D. Schaefer, External Operations - Delmarva Power & Light Co.
G. Edwards, Plant Manager, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
A. J. Wasong, Manager, Experience Assessment
J. W. Durham, Sr., Senior Vice President and General Counsel
P. MacFarland Goelz, Manager, Joint Generation, Atlantic Electric
B. W. Gorman, Manager, External Affairs
R. McLean, Power Plant Siting, Nuclear Evaluations
D. Poulsen, Secretary of Harford County Council
R. Ochs, Maryland Safe Energy Coalition
J. H. Walter, Chief Engineer, Public Service Commission of Maryland
L. Jacobson, Peach Bottom Alliance
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
TMI - Alert (TMIA)

Mr. D. M. Smith

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cc w/encl and Attachments 1-5:
 G. Edwards, Plant Manager, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
 J. Stankiewicz, Director of Training
 D. McClellan, Manager, Operations Training
 PUBLIC
 Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

bcc w/encl and Attachments 1-5:
 Master Exam File (V. Curley, DRS)

bcc w/encl; w/o Attachments 1-5:
 Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
 J. Wiggins, DRS
 D. Florek, Chief Examiner, DRS
 C. Carroll, Examiner, Sonalysts
 R. Miller, Examiner, Sonalysts
 NRC Resident Inspector
 OL Facility File (V. Curley, DRS)
 K. Gallagher, DRP

bcc w/encl; w/o Attachments 1-5: (Via E-Mail)
 W. Dean, OEDO
 S. Richards, OLB/NRR
 Joseph Shea, NRR
 J. Stolz, PDI-2, NRR
 Inspection Program Branch, NRR (IPAS)

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