



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

JUN 29 1992

Docket No. STN 50-482
License No. NPF-42

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
ATTN: Bart D. Withers
President and Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM EVALUATION AT WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION

In a telephone conversation between Messrs. J. Gilmore of your staff and S. McCrory of our staff, arrangements were made for an evaluation of the requalification program and licensed personnel at the Wolf Creek Generating Station facility. The evaluation is scheduled for the weeks of October 19 and 26, 1992.

For the examiners to prepare adequately for this visit, it will be necessary for the facility to furnish the approved items listed in Enclosure 1, "Reference Material Requirements." Failure to supply the reference material as required by Enclosure 1 may result in postponement of the examination. We request that the facility submit proposed examinations for use during the evaluation in addition to the material requirements of Enclosure 1. Submission of a proposed examination, even if requested, is optional. However, if a proposed examination is submitted, those personnel participating in its development may become subject to the security restrictions described below. If you choose to submit a proposed examination, we request that you also provide a copy to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Chief, Operator Licensing Branch, Washington, D.C. 20555. Mr. Gilmore has been advised of our reference material requirements, including proposed examinations, and where these items are to be sent.

Your attention is directed to the guidance promulgated in Revision 6 to NUREG-1021 pertaining to the content and scope of simulator examination scenarios. The scenario bank should cover the entire spectrum of emergency operating procedures, including alternate decision paths within emergency operating procedures, and incorporate a range of failures with varying degrees of severity for the same type event. Each scenario should contain simultaneous events that require prioritization of actions and allocation of resources, and should exercise emergency operating procedures in-depth (i.e., scenarios require transitions and or decisions to be made on actions to take within the emergency operating procedures).

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You are requested to designate at least one employee to be a member of a joint NRC-facility examination team. The employee shall be an active senior reactor operator (SRO) (per the requirements of 10 CFR 55.53[e] or [f]) from the Wolf Creek Generating Station operations department. You are encouraged to designate a second employee from the training staff to be a member of the examination team. This employee should be an active SRO (per the requirements of 10 CFR 55.53[e] or [f]), but may be a facility or INPO certified instructor. If desired, you may designate one additional qualified employee from the training staff. In addition to these individuals, a simulator operator must be made available for scenario preview and validation during the onsite examination preparation week. In some cases, it may be necessary to designate a simulator operator during the test item review period.

Any facility representatives under the security agreement shall be restricted from knowingly communicating by any means the content or scope of the examination to unauthorized persons and from participating in any facility programs such as instructing, examining, or tutoring in which an identified requalification examinee(s) will be present. These restrictions shall apply from the day that the facility representatives sign the examination security agreement indicating that the representative understands that he or she has specialized knowledge of the examination. The Chief Examiner will determine when facility representatives have received specialized knowledge concerning the examination and require execution of an examination security agreement. In most cases, the examination team members will not be required to enter into an examination security agreement more than 60 days prior to the examination week. The simulator operator will normally become subject to the requirements during the examination preparation and validation week, but this may occur as much as 30 days prior to the examination week to support operating test item review and revision.

The facility shall identify to the NRC 60 days prior to the examination administration date: (a) the proposed operators, including crew composition for the examinations, and (b) the current mailing address for each proposed operator. The facility training staff should provide this information directly to the NRC's Chief Examiner. Operator addresses shall be forwarded in a manner to ensure privacy. We would also request that you identify on-shift crew compositions. Prior to the start of examinations, we would like to meet with the examinees. Our chief examiner will discuss potential times for this meeting with members of your staff. Our purpose for the meeting is to explain the examination methodology, grading criteria, and answer questions regarding the examination process.

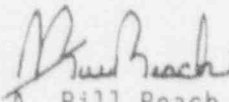
The facility management is responsible for providing adequate space and accommodations to develop and conduct the examinations. Enclosure 2, "Administration of Requalification Examinations," describes our requirements for developing and conducting the examinations. Mr. Gilmore has been informed of these requirements. Also, a facility operations management representative should observe the simulation facility examinations.

Enclosure 3 contains the "NRC Rules and Guidance for Examinees" that will be in effect during the administration of the written examination. The facility management is responsible for ensuring that all operators are aware of these rules.

This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget Clearance Number 3150-0101, which expires May 31, 1992. The estimated average burden is 7.7 hours per response, including gathering, copying, and mailing the required material. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Records and Reports Management Branch, Division of Information Support Services, Office of Information Resources Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0101), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NE OB-3019, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

If you have any questions on the evaluation process, please contact Messrs. John L. Pellet, Chief, Operator Licensing Section at (817) 860-8159 or Stephen L. McCrory, Operator Licensing Examiner at (817) 860-8256.

Sincerely,



A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Reference Material Requirements
2. Administration of Requalification Examinations
3. NRC Rules and Guidance for Examinees

cc w/enclosures:


Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
ATTN: B. McKinney, Manager, Nuclear Training
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

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ATTN: B. McKinney, Manager, Nuclear Training
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating
Corporation

-4-

bcc w/enclosure:

bcc distrib. by RIV:

R. D. Martin

RIV File

L. Hurley

D. V. Pickett, NRR Project Manager (MS: 13-H-15)

Licensee & Debt Collection Branch, ATTN: Leali Tremper

bcc to DMB (IE42)

S. McCrory, Chief Examiner

Chief Examiner Reading File (L. Berger)

Section Chief (DRP/D)

DRS (J. L. Pellet)

L. Miller, TTC

RIV:RI *for*
SLMcCrory/lb
6/25/92

C:OLS *for*
JLPellet *for*
6/25/92

D:DRS
SJCollins
6/25/92

D:DRP
ARBeach
6/29/92

Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating
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-4-

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D:DRP
ABBeach
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ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCE MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

Test items to support all aspects of the requalification examination must be provided to the NRC 60 days prior to the examination date.

All test items should be developed in accordance with the guidelines provided in Sections 602 through 604 of NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," and the respective attachments thereto.

For the first requalification evaluation at the facility, the submittal must contain at least:

700 test items for use in the written examination. They should be equally divided between the two sections of the examination and there must be at least 350 test items for use in each section.

75 job-performance measures (JPMs) for use on the walk-through portion of the operating examination. To the extent possible, approximately 40% of the JPMs should evaluate "in-plant" tasks (system/component operation outside the control room).

15 simulator scenarios of approximately 50 minutes each in length for use on the simulator portion of the operating examination for examinations each week.

For subsequent requalification examinations, facilities are expected to make submittals reflecting progress toward the following targets over the next 5 years after the initial evaluation visit:

A minimum of 700 test items for use in the written examination equally divided between the two sections of the written examination and which cover all safety-related elements of the facility job-task analysis (JTA). The bank shall be dynamic in nature, in that at least 150 questions a year shall be reviewed, revised or generated. New questions that are developed should cover equipment and system modifications, recent industry and licensee events, and procedural changes.

JPMs to evaluate each operator and senior operator safety-related task identified in the facility JTA, which meet the criteria in ES-603. The JPM bank should expand at a rate of at least 10 JPMs per year until this goal is reached. It is estimated that 125-150 JPMs will be the final result. Development of the questions associated with the JPMs shall also continue, such that there is a representative sample of questions for the knowledges associated with the task listed in the JTA.

A bank of at least 30 simulator scenarios such that there is a representative sample of all plausible or expected abnormal and emergency situations to which control room operators are expected to respond or control. At least 5 scenarios per year should be generated

until all aspects of the emergency operating procedures are covered with sufficient variation in the type and scope of initiating events and level of degradation.

For all requalification examination and evaluation visits, the facility shall:

Submit an Examination Test Outline/Sample Plan which meets the requirements of ES-601, Attachment 2.

Provide the associated examination banks (written, simulator and JPM) and associated reference material. This shall include Technical Specifications, applicable plant operating, surveillance and administrative procedures, abnormal and emergency operating procedures, emergency plan procedures and training material utilized in the requalification training (including student handouts and lesson plans). Additional reference material may be requested by the Chief Examiner.

ENCLOSURE 2

ADMINISTRATION OF REQUALIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

1. An evaluation of at least 12 facility licensed operators is required for a program evaluation. Normally the crew scheduled for requalification training during the period selected for the program evaluation should be selected. The sample will include other licensed operators who are not routinely performing shift duties or are not maintaining an active license per 10 CFR 55.53(e). The restrictions on crew composition in the simulator are described in ES-601(C.1.b) and ES-604.
2. The simulator and simulator operator(s) will be provided for examination development. The date(s) and duration of time needed to develop the examinations will be agreed upon by the Chief Examiner and the facility.
3. The reference material used in the simulator will be reviewed by the Chief Examiner. No material will be made available that is solely used for training.
4. A single room shall be provided for completing Section B of the written examination. The location of this room and supporting rest room facilities shall be such as to prevent contact with all other facility and/or contractor personnel during the duration of the examination.
5. Minimum spacing is required to ensure examination integrity as determined by the Chief Examiner. Minimum spacing should be one examinee per table, with a 3-foot space between tables. No wall charts, models, and/or other training materials shall be present in the examination room.
6. Copies of reference material for Section B of the written examination will be provided for each examinee. The reference material will be reviewed by the Chief Examiner and will consist of Technical Specifications, operating/abnormal procedures, administrative procedures and emergency plans as available to the plant operators.
7. The use of video taping capabilities is not desired. If you wish to use them, this must be coordinated with the Chief Examiner. The facility should contact the Chief Examiner for restrictions related to video taping.
8. An attempt will be made to distinguish between reactor operator and senior reactor operator knowledge and abilities to the extent that such a distinction is supported by the facility training materials.
9. Prudent scheduling of examination week activities is important to help alleviate undue stress on the operators. Your training staff and the Chief Examiner should work very closely in formulating a schedule which does not result in excessive delays in crews or individuals being administered their examination. The following are some suggestions for structuring the examination activities to achieve this purpose:

- Do not bring in crews or individuals well before their scheduled examination times.
- When examining operators in groups, it is better to hold the group just completing their examination instead of the groups that are taking their examination later.
- Following each simulator scenarios, the facility evaluators and NRC examiners should quickly determine whether followup questioning is required so that the crew may be released to talk among themselves about the scenario.
- Ensure that time validation of JPMs, particularly those performed in the simulator, is conducted accurately. A reasonable schedule should be established to prevent operators from waiting for simulator availability to complete their JPMs.

16. When you are finished and have turned in your completed examination, leave the examination area.
17. Proportional grading will be applied. Any additional wrong information that is provided may account against. For example, if a question is worth one point and asks for four responses, each of which is worth 0.25 points, and you give five responses, each of your responses will be worth 0.20 points. If one of your five responses is incorrect, 0.20 will be deducted and your total credit for that question will be 0.80 instead of 1.00 even though you got the four correct answers.
18. The examination has been time validated by knowledgeable persons. You should be aware that not every answer needs to be verified by consulting a reference and excessive usage of reference material may cause you to not complete the examination in the allotted time.