

Yellow

February 11, 1985

Viginia Electric and Power Company
ATTN: Mr. W. L. Stewart, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
P. O. Box 26666
Richmond, VA 23261

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY - NORTH ANNA EXAMINATION RESULTS

This refers to the meeting held with members of your staff in Region II on January 23, 1985, at your request to discuss the results of operator licensing examinations administered at North Anna Power Station during the week of October 29, 1984.

It is our opinion that this meeting was beneficial and has provided for a better mutual understanding of this problem. Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and enclosure will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning these matters, we will be pleased to discuss them.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Roger D. Walker

Roger D. Walker, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:
Meeting Summary

cc w/encl:
J. H. Ferguson, Chief
Operating Officer
E. W. Harrell, Station Manager
B. Shriver, Director of Training

50-338
50-339

bcc w/encl:
Document Control Desk
NRC Resident Inspector
Commonwealth of Virginia

8503060245 850211
PDR ADOCK 05000388
PDR

RII
[Signature]
AWilson:11
01/31/85

RII *AL*
AFGibson
01/ /85

RII *AL*
PRBemis
02/1/85

RII
[Signature]
SEIrod
01/5/85

RII
[Signature]
VLBrownlee
2/7/85

IE-31 1/1

ENCLOSURE

MEETING SUMMARY

Licensee: Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO)

Facility: North Anna Power Station, Units 1 and 2

License Nos.: NPF-4 and NPF-7

Docket Nos.: 50-338 and 50-339

SUBJECT: NORTH ANNA EXAMINATION RESULTS

Subjects Discussed:

The meeting was requested by VEPCO to discuss the results of the most recent operator licensing examinations at the North Anna Power Station. As a result of those examinations, only two of four Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) candidates and two of nine Reactor Operator (RO) candidates passed and received licenses. VEPCO was concerned since previous examination site visits resulted in much more positive results and, although they believe that some training program deficiencies do exist, they felt that the NRC examinations contributed to the high failure rate. In particular, their concern was with the high percentage of multiple-choice questions and, more significantly, with procedural questions which were not congruent with their performance-based training philosophy. Also, they believe that the time constraints on the exam review policy did not allow sufficient time for careful consideration of all questions and answers.

The NRC responses to the above three concerns were the following:

- a. Use of multiple-choice format is consistent with NRC examination policy. This format has been used by Region II for about a year and continued use of this type of exam is planned.
- b. Examination questions are routinely reviewed to assure that they are performance-based for the appropriate level of knowledge, i.e., RO or SRO. Such reviews are constrained, however, by the regulatory requirements of 10 CFR 55 and by the reviewer not having the performance-based training objectives of each individual facility. The comments provided by the licensee in this area were acknowledged and will be considered during future examination preparation and review.
- c. Changes to the exam review policy are presently under reconsideration by the NRC. Region II acknowledged that the review of objective examinations generally requires a longer time period but the concept of exam review prior to or during exam administration is not presently a realistic option.

VEPCO stated that improvements are being made in their reference material, in particular, their system descriptions and lesson plans. They further stated that procedures were being revised to lessen the burden placed on operators for memorization. They believed, however, that their question bank was adequate and noted that it had recently been reviewed recently by an NRC inspector.

Prior to concluding the meeting, Region II discussed with VEPCO recent problems with license renewals and tentative plans for administering requalification examinations at North Anna and Surry. VEPCO stated that they had recently implemented a program to ensure that all license renewal candidates could meet the requirement of "actively and extensively engaged." Region II confirmed the schedule for administering requalification examinations at both VEPCO facilities in the October - November 1985 time period.

Attachment:
List of Attendees

ATTACHMENT

ATTENDEES

Virginia Electric and Power Company

Bryce Shriver, Manager of Training

Curtis Meyer, Superintendent of Operator Training, North Anna

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II

Paul Bemis, Director, Division of Reactor Safety

Albert Gibson, Chief, Operations Branch

Bruce Wilson, Chief, Operator Licensing Section

Tom Rogers, Examiner, Operator Licensing Section