



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

DEC 23 1996

Neil S. Carns, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: PILOT INITIAL EXAMINATION (NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-483/97-03)

Dear Mr. Carns:

In a telephone conversation on December 17, 1996, between Mr. Anthony Palmer, Supervisor, Initial License Programs, and Howard Bundy of my staff, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Wolf Creek Generating Station during the week of April 7, 1997.

Based on this telephone conversation, we understand that your staff has agreed to participate in a voluntary pilot examination program in which your staff will prepare the written examinations and operating tests and submit them to this office for evaluation and approval. Your staff will prepare the proposed examinations in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 7, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," Revision 5, of NUREG/BR-0122, "Examiners' Handbook for Developing Operator Licensing Written Examinations," and the attachment to this letter. We will discuss with your staff any examination changes that might be necessary prior to their administration.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the proposed examination outlines by February 7, 1997, and the finalized written examinations and operating test by March 7, 1997. The NRC will review the completed and validated examinations at your facility the week of March 24, 1997. Any delay in receiving approved test outlines or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete test materials, may result in the examinations being rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with Examiner Standard-402 and to make the simulation facility available for the weeks noted above.

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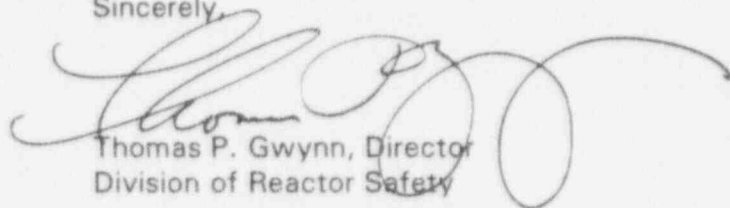
Examiner Standards-402 and -302, Attachment 1, contain a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered. In accordance with Examiner Standard-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Your staff should submit the preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications and waiver requests at least 30 days before the first examination date so that the NRC will be able to review the applications and the medical certifications and evaluate any requested waivers. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance Number 3150-0101, which expires April 30, 1997. The estimated average burden is 7.7 hours per response, including gathering, xeroxing, 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 Information and Records Management Branch, Mail Stop T-6 F33, 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, NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Palmer has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding this inspection, please contact Howard Bundy at (817) 860-8172 or John Pellet, Chief, Operations Branch at (817) 860-8159.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Attachment:
Pilot Examination Guidelines

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation

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cc:

Vice President Plant Operations
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

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County Clerk
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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
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P.O. Box 411, Burlington, KS 66839

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation

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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE42)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
DRP Director
Branch Chief (DRP/B)
Project Engineer (DRP/B)
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
L. Hurley
S. Richards (NRR/HOLB)

Resident Inspector
SRI (Callaway, RIV)
DRS-PSB
MIS System
RIV File
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation

-5-

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HFBundy		MEMurphy	TPGwynn					
12/29/96		12/20/96	12/29/96					

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ATTACHMENT

PILOT EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

Facility licensees will prepare the written examinations and operating tests (dynamic simulator and walkthrough) in accordance with the instructions in Revision 7, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021 ("Operator Licensing Examiner Standards") and Revision 5 of NUREG/BR-0122 ("Examiners' Handbook for Developing Operator Licensing Written Examinations"), subject to the following additional criteria:

- (1) The facility licensee will prepare an integrated examination outline (written and operating test) and submit it to the NRC regional office for review, comment, and approval at least 60 days before the scheduled examination date. The NRC chief examiner will work with the facility licensee to resolve any problems and to avoid unnecessary revision of the final examination products.
- (2) Facility employees who are involved with developing the examinations and tests will sign a standard security agreement (Form ES-201-2) before they gain specific knowledge of the examinations and tests. Facility employees who played a substantial role in training the license applicants will generally not be involved in developing the license examinations or tests. If the facility licensee considers such employees necessary for developing the examinations or tests, it will define the measures it will take to ensure that the integrity of the examinations is not compromised and submit them to the NRC regional office for approval.
- (3) The written examinations and operating tests will satisfy the following specific criteria:
 - A maximum of 50 percent of the written examination questions may be taken directly from the facility question bank; up to an additional 40 percent of the questions may be taken from the facility bank but must be significantly modified; and a minimum of 10 percent of the questions will be newly developed. As discussed in NUREG/BR-0122, new questions should emphasize the applicants' understanding at the comprehension or application levels of knowledge because they have the greatest operational and discriminatory validity.
 - No more than 25 percent of the questions on the examination may be repeated from previous examinations, quizzes, or tests administered to the license applicants, or from the past two NRC license examinations at the facility. No questions may be drawn directly from the applicants' audit examination or similar testing vehicle given at the end of the training class.

- Each walkthrough test will include at least two job performance measures (JPMs) that are either new or significantly altered, and each simulator scenario set will include at least one new or significantly altered scenario. Other scenarios used may be drawn directly from the facility scenario bank; however, they will be altered to the degree needed to prevent the applicants from immediately recognizing the scenarios based on initial conditions or other cues.
 - A significant modification, for purposes of the written questions, means a change to the conditions in the stem and at least one distractor significantly changed. Similarly, JPMs and simulator scenarios will have at least one substantive event or condition change that alters the course of action in the JPM or scenario.
- (4) The facility licensee will submit the final written examinations and operating tests to the NRC regional office at least 30 days before the scheduled examination date. In its submittal, the facility licensee will include a history (e.g., bank, revised, new, and date last used) of each test item used on the written and operating tests.
- (5) The NRC regional office will assign a chief examiner to coordinate the review, revision (as determined necessary by the NRC), and validation of the written examinations and operating tests with the facility licensee. Additional NRC staff examiners will be assigned as necessary (typically one or two, depending on the number of applicants) to assist the chief examiner with administering and grading the operating tests in accordance with existing procedures. The facility licensee will administer and grade the written examinations; NRC examiners will review and approve the licensee's grading.