



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 22, 1997

Mr. David C. Linnen, Manager
Training Activities Department
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

Dear Mr. Linnen:

The April 9, 1997 Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) was administered to 155 candidates at 25 facilities. The examination operated smoothly and without incident.

The summary statistical results follow:

	PWR	BWR
No. of examinees	84	71
Mean score	91.07%	88.73%
Median score	91%	90%
High score	98%	98%
Low score	82%	71%
Number/% of failures	0/00%	4/5.6%
Failures by facility:		Hope Creek - 1 (77%) Peach Bottom - 1 (71%) Clinton - 2 (77%, 76%)

The statistical results of this exam, e.g., mean scores and range are generally in line and stable with past exam performance. Overall exam difficulty level (i.e., mean score) is targeted at 87.00 and actual exam difficulty levels of 91 and 89 are sufficiently close to targeted goals and consistent with past GFE performance. As in previous exams since February 1992, this exam was developed using the merged INPO/NRC test bank from your catalogs. Overall, we believe this exam was a good product and a valid measure of generic fundamental knowledge.

As a matter of possible interest to you is the relatively large number of facility withdrawal of candidates during the final week and days preceding the examination. All facilities combined withdrew a total of 22 candidates from their initial count of 177 intended test takers. The most common reason given for last day withdrawals was that the candidates withdrawn were not prepared for the NRC/GFE given their performance on the respective facility audit examinations.

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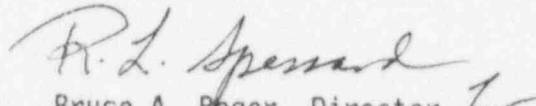
D. Linnen

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As we have routinely done, we are enclosing both BWR and PWR hard copies of the exam as well as a floppy diskette which contains the contents of this examination along with its associated catalog input data needed for updating your catalogs.

If you have any questions, please contact George M. Usova at (301) 415-1064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. A. Boger", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce A. Boger, Director *for*
Division of Reactor Controls
and Human Factors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures: As stated

Facility Comments and Answer Key Changes

In summary, three BWR facilities made seven comments on five questions. Similarly, five PWR facilities made 18 comments on nine questions.

Regarding the BWR facility comments, we reviewed and researched each of the comments affecting five items. Based upon our analysis, we revised the grading of two items (60 and 86) to be adjusted to accept two correct answers, but no answer key changes were made to the remaining three items.

	Question #	Change
BWR	60	Accept two answers, B or D
BWR	86	Accept two answers, A or B

The above BWR items (60 and 86, Form A) will be deleted from the NRC examination bank. Accordingly, those items have also been deleted from the BWR hard copy and computer diskette enclosures to this letter so as not to be entered into the BWR examination catalog bank in your annual catalog updates.

Regarding PWR items, we reviewed the comments affecting those nine items. Based upon our analysis, we revised the grading of four items (22, 37, 44, and 64) to accept two correct answers, but no answer key changes were made to the remaining five PWR items.

PWR	22	Accept two answers, B or D
PWR	37 (form B)	Accept two answers, A or D (form B only)
PWR	44	Change answer to B (for Beaver Valley and Vogtle)
PWR	64	Accept two answers, A or C (for Ginna only)

In particular, items 44 and 64 above, were facility-specific exceptions that warranted an additionally correct answer for Beaver Valley, Vogtle, and Ginna only. Item 37 of Form B contained a mislabelled distractor option sequence where the letter "D" was in the "A" position. This occurrence inadvertently caused only one candidate nationwide (Beaver Valley) to transcribe "D" on to the answer sheet rather than his intended "A". In fairness, we concluded that the "D" response should be granted credit. Accordingly, only PWR item 22 will be deleted from the NRC examination bank; that item has also been deleted from the PWR hard copy and computer diskette enclosures to this letter so as not to be entered into the PWR examination catalog bank in your annual catalog updates. The remaining items will be entered into the bank but the answer key has been adapted to accommodate the utility-specific answer should the item be reused on any future examinations.

As we have routinely done, we are enclosing both BWR and PWR hard copies of the exam as well as a floppy diskette which contains the contents of this examination along with its associated catalog input data needed for updating your catalogs.

If you have any questions, please contact George M. Usova at (301) 415-1064.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Bruce A. Boger, Director
Division of Reactor Controls
and Human Factors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures: As stated

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