



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

AUG 23 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Carl Berlinger, Chief
Generic Communications Branch
Division of Operational Events
Assessment, NRR

FROM: John N. Hannon, Chief
Operator Licensing Branch
Division of Licensee Performance
and Quality Evaluation, NRR

SUBJECT: INFORMATION NOTICE ON REVISIONS TO NRC-ADMINISTERED
REQUALIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

As a result of a complete revision to the NRC program for administering requalification examinations to facility licensed operators, it is desirable to inform these operators of the program changes. We had originally intended to promulgate this information in the form of a Generic Letter, but now feel it is more appropriate to issue an Information Notice. Therefore, you are requested to draft and issue an appropriate Information Notice based on the attached draft Generic Letter.

John N. Hannon
John N. Hannon, Chief
Operator Licensing Branch
Division of Licensee Performance
and Quality Evaluation, NRR

Enclosure:
As stated

CONTACT:
L. A. Wiens, NRR
49-23171

8808300075 880823
PDR ORG NRRB
PNU

DF03
1/1

IDR-11C

Distribution and concurrence for memo to Carl Berlinger dated AUG 23 1988.

DISTRIBUTION:

OLB RF

Central Files

NRC PDR

JNHannon

TLSzymanski

LAWiens

RACooley

INFOR NOTICE NRC REQUAL EXAMS

OFC	:	OLB:DLPO	:	OLB:DLPO	:		:		:		:
NAME	:	LAWiens:tc	:	JNHannon	:		:		:		:
DATE	:	8/24/88	:	8/25/88	:		:		:		:

OFFICIAL FILE COPY



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

TO ALL LICENSED OPERATORS AND SENIOR OPERATORS AT POWER REACTORS

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO NRC-ADMINISTERED REQUALIFICATION EXAMINATIONS
(Generic Letter 88-)

On March 25, 1987, a complete revision to 10 CFR 55, "Operators' Licenses," was published in the Federal Register (52 FR 9453) to be effective on May 26, 1987. This revision includes a new provision for the renewal of operator licenses. Briefly, it requires that each licensee pass "a comprehensive requalification written examination and operating test administered by the Commission during the term of a six-year license."

Requalification training programs are designed to provide a continuing process to maintain the proficiency of licensed personnel, particularly in regard to infrequently performed tasks and activities, and to keep them informed of plant changes and events that affect plant operations. The objectives of the NRC requalification evaluation of operators are to ensure that these program objectives are being met. Through informal contact with individual operators and facility training staff, the NRC staff became concerned that the implementation of the new provision may have been having an adverse effect on licensed operators at nuclear power plants along with a potential adverse effect on plant safety.

In September 1987, the NRC suspended all NRC-administered requalification examinations to allow the staff to evaluate the concerns raised and to consider revisions to the program. The NRC-administered requalification evaluation process has been revised to minimize any adverse effect on safety. An evaluation of this revised process has been conducted at one site in each region. On the basis of the lessons learned from these trial evaluations, final revisions are being made to the program. Full-scale resumption of NRC-administered requalification evaluations will begin in October 1988.

The requalification examinations conducted by the NRC will consist of the following:

1. Operating Test

- a. Crew Evaluations: Evaluations of crew performance will be performed in the simulator. Individual operator weaknesses will be flagged for followup evaluation during the plant walkthrough.
- b. Individual Evaluations: The NRC will observe plant walkthroughs during which operators will be expected to successfully implement job performance measures for selected tasks. Operators also will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the job performance measures by satisfactorily answering performance-based questions related to the tasks.

2. Written Examination

The written examination will be administered in an open-reference format, which allows the use of available reference materials, and will consist of the following two sections:

- a. Plant Operations: This section will be administered in a simulator or an equivalent device. Questions will be based on the status of the "frozen" simulator (or the equivalent device). The operator will be able to refer to simulator indications and reference materials present in the simulator in responding to test questions.
- b. Limits and Controls: This section will be conducted in a simulator or a classroom. Questions will be asked about plant procedures and administrative controls. A complete set of reference materials used to operate the plant will be available during the written examination.

3. Examinee Critique

Each examinee will be asked to anonymously critique the evaluation process.

Before the examination is administered all aspects of the examination will be reviewed by facility representatives to ensure that examination questions, scenarios and job performance measures are performance based and technically correct. This revised process will result in an examination that accurately reflects the ability of operators to satisfactorily perform licensed duties.

If you have any questions concerning the information contained in this letter, please call your regional NRC operator licensing branch chief or Mr. John Hannon, Operator Licensing Branch, (301) 492-1031.

Sincerely,

Frank Miraglia, Associate
for Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation