

September 23, 1998

Mr. John K. Wood
Vice President - Nuclear
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
Centerior Service Company
5501 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION REPORT 50-346/98301(OL)

Dear Mr. Wood:

On August 7, 1998, the NRC completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. The license applicants' performance evaluations were finalized on August 24, 1998. During the license examination, control room operations were observed and several administrative and operating procedures were reviewed. The enclosed report presents the results of the examination and concurrent operations inspection.

Operating and written examinations were administered to six license applicants. The applicants were administered Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) examinations. All six applicants passed all sections of their examinations and were issued SRO licenses to operate your Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

Control room evolutions were well supervised and communications were concise and complete. Operators who performed examination validation were knowledgeable and consistently followed procedures.

This examination was the Davis-Besse training department's second opportunity to prepare an operator license examination under the NRC's initial license examination process. This process allowed your training department personnel to prepare and administer the written examination and prepare the operating examination. NRC examiners administered the operating examination. Although the training department staff's final submittal of examination material was satisfactory, the need for improvement in some areas was identified. The initially developed examination required additional NRC attention to correct deficiencies to make the examination conform with NUREG 1021, Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors, Revision 8, January 1997, and with other examinations currently being administered by the NRC.

Several of the license applicants demonstrated generic weaknesses during administration of the operating examination. Three of the applicants were unable to provide the correct protective action recommendation when implementing the station's emergency plan. Three applicants were also unable to correctly identify the posting of an area as a "locked, high radiation area," based on a given dose rate.

It is our expectation that the Davis-Besse training department instructors will use the applicant and examination weaknesses outlined in the accompanying report as feedback to improve the

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operator license training program in accordance with your Systematic Approach to Training (SAT) program. Since the number of questions deleted and answers changed by your post written examination comments exceeded the five percent criteria stated in section ES-501 C.2.c. of NUREG 1021, we request that you provide a written response within 30 days from the date of this letter to explain why so many post examination changes were necessary and what actions will be taken to improve future operator license written examinations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosures to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely

Original Signed by Steven A. Reynolds (for)

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-346
License No. NPF-3

- Enclosures:
1. Operator Licensing Examination Report 50-346/98301(OL)
 2. Facility Post Written Examination Comments and NRC Resolution
 3. Simulation Facility Report
 4. Written Examination and Answer Key (SRO)

cc w/encls 1, 2 & 3:

- J. Stetz, Senior Vice President - Nuclear
- J. Lash, Plant Manager
- J. Freels, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
- M. O'Reilly, First Energy
- State Liaison Officer, State of Ohio
- R. Owen, Ohio Department of Health
- C. Glazer, State of Ohio Public Utilities Commission

cc w/encls 1, 2, 3 & 4: J. House, Acting Plant Training Manager

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