

October 9, 1998

Mr. Walter G. MacFarland IV
Senior Vice President
Clinton Power Station
Illinois Power Company
Mail Code V-275
P. O. Box 678
Clinton, IL 61727

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION & INSPECTION REPORT
50-451/98301(OL)

Dear Mr. MacFarland:

On September 4, 1998, the NRC completed an initial operator licensing retake examination and a licensed operator requalification program special inspection at your Clinton Power Station. The license applicant's performance evaluation was finalized on September 21, 1998. The enclosed report presents the results of the retake examination and special inspection.

An operating test consisting of control room and in-plant job performance measures was administered to one senior reactor operator applicant that had failed the February 1998, initial license examination. The applicant passed the retake examination but was not issued an operator license as he had not completed all requirements necessary to be issued the license. The applicant will be issued a senior reactor operator license when you certify, in writing, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that all your training program requirements and 10 CFR 55 required reactivity manipulations are completed. Your certification should also state that the applicant was enrolled in the continuing operator training program and his performance in that program was satisfactory.

The retake examination was your training department's second opportunity to prepare an operator licensing examination under the NRC's operator licensing process as outlined in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Interim Revision 8. This process permitted the preparation of the operating examination by your training staff. The NRC approved and administered the examination.

Licensed operator performance was observed during routine control room activities and during the administration of an annual operating test to one operating crew. During the control room observation, licensed operators executed their duties in a professional manner and were knowledgeable of existing plant conditions. However, when implementing emergency operating procedures during the annual operating examination, licensed operator performance was not always correct and resulted in examination failures. Since the completion of this inspection period, a significant number of crew and individual examination failures have occurred (4 of 7 crews and 21 of 60 licensed operators). Several examination failures were attributed to the operators' failure to correctly implement emergency operating procedure steps and enforce command and control

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activities in the crews. During the January/February 1998, initial licensed operator examination, examiners determined that initial license applicants were incorrectly executing emergency operating implementation procedures. Taken in aggregate, this is indicative of a problem in your training program's implementation for licensed operators. We understand that you have begun a root cause investigation into the requalification examination failures and have entered this issue into your Plan for Excellence. We also understand that you plan to address those aspects necessary for operation prior to restart of the unit. We have added the training and evaluation of licensed operators into the Case Specific Checklist of the Manual Chapter 0350 restart plan. We will determine those items requiring additional inspection efforts following your determination of corrective actions.

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 and inspection.

Sincerely

Original Signed by Marc L. Dapas

Marc L. Dapas, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-461
License No.: NPF-62

- Enclosures: 1. Examination & Inspection Report 50-461/98301(OL)
2. Simulator Fidelity Report

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