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Docket Number 50-346

License Number NPF-3

Serial Number 1-1175

October 21, 1998

Mr. J. L. Caldwell  
Acting Regional Administrator, Region III  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Subject: Response to Operator Licensing Examination Report 50-346/98301(OL)

Dear Mr. Caldwell:

The Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station has received Operator Licensing Examination Report 50-346/98301 (OL), Toledo Edison Log Number 1-4010. This report documented the results of the Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) examinations administered the week of August 3, 1998, and the concurrent operations inspection. This SRO written examination was prepared and administered in accordance with the guidelines provided in NUREG-1021, Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors, Interim Revision 8, dated January, 1997.

After the examination was administered, seven examination questions were required to be deleted or answers changed as a result of post written examination comments. This exceeded the five percent criteria stated in Section ES-501 C.2.c of NUREG-1021. A Potential Condition Adverse to Quality Report (PCAQR) was initiated on August 10, 1998, to investigate the cause of this occurrence and determine corrective actions to improve future operator license written examinations.

The root cause investigation is in progress at this time and is considering the exam preparation process. This SRO examination was the first prepared in accordance with the guidelines of NUREG-1021, Interim Revision 8. Preparation of this examination was potentially impacted by a change of personnel responsible for reviewing and approving the examination. As documented

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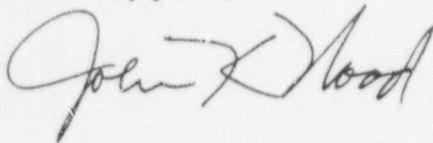
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in this examination report, a significant number of examination questions, approximately 50 percent, had to be changed after the initial review. Due to this large number of required changes, the examination validation process may have been impacted. This root cause investigation is continuing and will be completed by February 23, 1999. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will then be provided the root cause and corrective actions.

Requalification examinations are currently being administered to licensed operators. Due to the differences in the examination development and review process for the requalification exam versus the SRO exam just completed, the type of deficiencies encountered in the initial SRO exam should not occur.

Should you have additional questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. James L. Freels, Manager - Regulatory Affairs, at (419) 321-8466.

Sincerely yours,



DLM/dlc

cc: A. G. Hansen, NRC Project Manager  
S. J. Campbell, DB-1 Senior Resident Inspector  
✓USNRC Document Control Desk  
Utility Radiological Safety Board