

January 6, 1998

Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc.  
ATTN: Mr. D. N. Morey  
Vice President  
P. O. Box 1295  
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) REGION II EXAMINATION  
WRITING WORKSHOP - JANUARY 1998

Gentlemen:

Region II will conduct an Examination Writing Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 27 and 28, 1998, and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 1998. The workshop is designed to inform the facilities' management and operations and training staff of NUREG 1021 examination writing techniques for the licensing of reactor plant operators.

I would like to extend an invitation to you, and to members of your operations and training staff, to attend this conference. Our goal for the meeting is to provide a learning and sharing experience for your staff, both for the writers and for the reviewers of your initial examination submittals.

The site for this year's conference will be the Richard B. Russell Federal Building Auditorium on Spring Street in downtown Atlanta. This is behind our new building across from the Five Points MARTA station.

The agenda is enclosed. Please review the agenda and supply comments as soon as possible to my staff or myself.

We look forward to meeting with you in January. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at (404) 562-4638.

Sincerely,

(Original signed T. A. Peebles)

Thomas A. Peebles, Chief  
Operator Licensing and Human  
Performance Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

9801220244 980106  
PDR ADOCK 03000348  
V PDR

Docket Nos. 50-348, 50-364  
License Nos. NPF-2, NPF-8

Enclosure: As state.

cc w/encl: (See page 2)



Add NRC/DRCH

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SEUS

cc w/encl: R. D. Hill, Jr., General Manager  
 Nuclear Generation  
 Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant  
 L. S. Williams, Training Manager  
 Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant

Distribution w/encl:

PUBLIC

B. Michael, DRS

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Yes	No	COPY?	Yes	No	Yes	No

INITIAL EXAMINATION WORKSHOP  
RICHARD B. RUSSELL BLDG AUDITORIUM  
January 27-29, 1998

This will be a combined effort with the SSNTA, Region II examiners and Dr. George Usova. The description that follows is a general overview followed by the agenda.

Overview

The first two days will concentrate mainly on the written examination.

Dr. Usova will take the lead for the workshop on Tuesday. There are a number of fundamental concepts that will be discussed. This task will take several hours of the first morning, in which he intends to provide the theoretical basis for the participants in test and measurement concepts as well as NRC expectations for written exams set forth in the Examiner Standards.

In the afternoon, we will focus upon acceptable and unacceptable examples. There will be workshop time for participants to develop items. We shall produce overhead transparencies of the developed test items so that the whole group can critique selected items. Dr. Usova has some generic diesel generator lesson plans available for this activity.

The second day, Region II examiners will take the lead to extend the item writing workshop. We will provide further examples with further development of items and subsequent critique.

The third day will be devoted to the operating test, and will be completed before noon. The SSNTA plans to propose a standard JPM format.

The Russell Building Auditorium will seat more than two hundred people so we will have plenty of room to bring additional staff.



WORKSHOP AGENDA  
January 27-29, 1998

First Day  
Tuesday, Jan 27

8:30 - 8:40 Welcoming remarks

8:40-10:00 Introductions:  
Setting Goals and Objectives  
Review Foundational Concepts  
Norm vs Criterion-referenced Tests: Differences  
Validity Concepts and the Examiner Standards  
Levels of Knowledge  
Discrimination and Item Bank Use  
Psychometric Principles: Acceptance Standards

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 11:30 Establishing Exam Development Procedures  
Sampling and Developing the Sample Plan  
Setting Item Levels of Difficulty  
Understanding and Targeting the Cut Score  
The Structure of Knowledge and Higher Cognitive Levels

11:30 - 12:00 Question/Answer

Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 Examining Problem Test Items:  
Examiners will display 5 PWR and 5 BWR examples, including a mix of acceptable and unacceptable.

2:00 - 3:00 Participant Test Item Development Activity 1  
(Using BWR and PWR lesson plans on Diesel Generators...allow one hour to develop an item).

3:00 - 4:30 Self-critique (I will provide critique checklist). Select sample items for whole group critique and feedback.

End of Day 1

Second Day  
Wednesday, Jan 28

#### Regional Examiner Interaction

Overall, Region II examiners will take the lead to reinforce with more examples, practice activities and feedback during Day 2.

For the two item writing activities below, we will provide some generic style plant training materials, e.g. lesson plans, from which to develop items on general topics such as emergency air, feed pumps, service water, etc. There will be copies of each for participants to use for the item development activities.

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|---------------|--|
| 8:30 - 10:00  | Examiners lead with Good (acceptable)/poor (unacceptable) examples (PWR and BWR, 5 each. discussing why acceptable and why unacceptable) |
|               | Examiners lead with Before/After changes (PWR and BWR, 5 each discussing changes made to unacceptable items to make them acceptable).    |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | Participant Test Item Development Activity 2 using lesson plan material  |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Self-critique. Select sample items for whole group critique and feedback.  |
| Lunch         |  |
| 1:00 - 2:00   | Participant Test Item Development Activity 3 using lesson plan material.   |
| 2:00 - 4:00   | Self-critique. Select sample items for whole group critique and feedback.  |

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Third Day  
Thursday, Jan 29

Overall, general interaction between Region II examiners and facility training staffs.

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|-------------|--|
| 8:30-10:00  | Review proposed standard format for JPMs and address questions/comments on JPM development and administration. |
| 10:00-11:30 | Review simulator scenario format and development.  |
| 11:30-12:00 | Workshop critique with Regional Management   |