



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

April 19, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: D. Ward, Chairman
ACRS Subcommittee on Human Factors

FROM: D. C. Fischer, Senior Staff Engineer *DC Fischer*

SUBJECT: LICENSED REACTOR OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS

On Friday, April 13, 1984 the Commission voted 4-0-1 to:

- clarify 10 CFR 55.25(b) to make it consistent with current agency practice,
- grant exemptions to operator license applicants (until 10 CFR 55.25b can be clarified) so that applicants can be granted cold licenses if they meet current licensing practice,
- acknowledge the validity of the licenses held by individuals who previously received a cold license.

It has been consistent agency practice to accept satisfactory completion of an NRC-approved training program which utilizes a nuclear power plant simulator for satisfying the requirement of 10 CFR 55.25(b) that a license applicant have "extensive actual operating experience at a comparable reactor." It is important to note that 10 CFR 55.25 was promulgated in 1963, before reactor simulators were generally available.

There are three phases of an NRC approved cold license training program. Phase I includes basic fundamentals and operation of a research reactor during which the trainee performs at least 10 reactor start ups. The time normally required to cover Phase I is 12 weeks. Phase II includes participatory observation of the day-to-day operation of a nuclear power plant. This observation includes normal operation, surveillance testing, and radiation procedures. Also included in this phase is the operation of a nuclear power plant simulator similar in design to the facility for which the trainee will be seeking a license. The duration of Phase II training varies from four to six months. Phase III is the plant specific design lecture series which covers the features of trainee's facility and normally take six weeks to complete.

SECY-84-152, Licensed Reactor Operator Examinations, dated April 11, 1984, discusses cold operator exams in detail.

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The Commission's actions in this regard are consistent with the Commission's general endorsement of a recent industry proposal to ensure adequate experience at NTOL plants.

cc: ACRS Members
ACRS Technical Staff