



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

April 8, 2021

Mr. Steven Vercelli, Site Vice President
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 U.S. Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: River Bend Station - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT 05000458/2021301

Dear Mr. Vercelli:

On March 12, 2021, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at River Bend Station. The enclosed report documents the examination results and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination results were discussed on February 11, 2021 with you and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on March 12, 2021, with Mr. G. Kimish, lead examination writer, who was provided the NRC licensing decisions.

The examination included the evaluation of six applicants for reactor operator licenses, four applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and five applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined that all the 15 applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 and the appropriate licenses have been issued. There were no post-examination comments submitted by your staff. The enclosure contains details of this report.

No findings were identified during this examination.

This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory E. Werner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'W'.

Gregory E. Werner, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 005000458
License No. NPF-47

Enclosure:
Examination Report 05000548/2021301,
w/attachment: Supplemental Information

cc: Electronic Distribution to River Bend
Station

River Bend Station Initial Examination Report - 05000458/2021301- DATED APRIL 8, 2021

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML21095A311

SUNSI Review: ADAMS: Non-Publicly Available Non-Sensitive Keyword: NRC-002
 By: mnk Yes No Publicly Available Sensitive

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|-----------|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| OFFICE | SOE:R2/DRS/OB | OE:DRS/OB | SRI:DRS/EB2 | SOE:DRS/OB | OE: R2/DRS/OB |
| NAME | MKennard | MDoyle | JDrake | COsterholtz | JBundy |
| SIGNATURE | /RA/ | /RA/ | /RA/ | /RA/ | /RA/ |
| DATE | 04/01/2021 | 04/05/2021 | 04/05/2021 | 04/05/2021 | 04/05/2021 |
| OFFICE | C:DRP/C | C:DRS/OB | | | |
| NAME | JKozal | GWerner | | | |
| SIGNATURE | JWK | GEW | | | |
| DATE | 04/08/2021 | 04/08/2021 | | | |

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**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Inspection Report**

Docket Number: 05000458

License Number: NPF-47

Report Number: 05000458/2021301

Enterprise Identifier: L-2021-OLL-0010

Licensee: Entergy Operations, Inc.

Facility: River Bend Station

Location: Saint Francisville, Louisiana

Inspection Dates: February 8, 2021, to March 12, 2021

Inspectors: M. Kennard, Senior Operations Engineer, Chief Examiner
C. Osterholtz, Senior Operations Engineer
M. Doyle, Operations Engineer
J. Bundy, Operations Engineer
J. Drake, Senior Reactor Inspector

Approved By: Gregory E. Werner
Chief, Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure

SUMMARY

Examination Report 05000458/2021301; February 8 to March 12, 2021; River Bend Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report

The NRC examiners evaluated the competency of six applicants for reactor operator licenses, four applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses and five applicants for an upgrade senior reactor operator licenses at River Bend Station.

The licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11. The written examination was administered by the licensee on February 19, 2021. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on February 8-11, 2021.

The NRC examiners determined that all of the applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

None.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

REPORT DETAILS

OTHER ACTIVITIES – INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION

.1 License Applications

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed all license applications submitted to ensure each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. The NRC examiners also audited three of the license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the subject applicant's qualifications. This audit focused on the applicant's experience and on-the-job training, including control manipulations that provided significant reactivity changes.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.2 Examination Development

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed integrated examination outlines and draft examinations submitted by the licensee against the requirements of NUREG-1021. The NRC examiners conducted an onsite validation of the operating tests.

b. Findings

The NRC examiners provided outline, draft examination, and post-validation comments to the licensee. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to examination administration.

The NRC examiners determined the written examinations and operating tests initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

.3 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Scope

On February 19, 2021, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all 15 applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on February 22, 2021.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all applicants on February 8 - February 11, 2021.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

All applicants passed the written examination and all parts of the operating tests. The final written examinations and post-examination analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment. There were no post-examination comments as indicated in the licensee submittal.

The examination team noted no generic weaknesses associated with applicant performance on the operating tests. Post examination analysis revealed four generic weaknesses associated with applicant performance on the written examination:

- The definition of high energy systems – 11 Of 15 missed Question 68
- The basis and limit for the Drywell-to-Primary Containment differential pressure – 6 of 9 missed Question 77
- The time requirement to declare the Unusual Event for a single fire alarm – 6 of 9 missed Question 81
- The applicability of the generic tech Spec SR 3.0.3 – 5 of 9 missed Question 91

These deficiencies were captured in the licensee's gap training program and lesson's learned document to ensure all applicants understand the concepts. Copies of all individual examination reports were sent to the facility training manager for evaluation and determination of appropriate remedial training.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The NRC examiners observed simulator performance with regards to plant fidelity during examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed examination security for examination development during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with 10 CFR 55.49 and NUREG-1021. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

EXIT MEETINGS AND DEBRIEFS

Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented the preliminary examination results to Mr. S. Vercelli, Site Vice President, and other members of the staff on February 11, 2021. A telephonic exit was conducted on March 12, 2021, between Mr. M. Kennard, chief examiner, and Mr. G. Kimish, lead examination writer. The licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

S. Peterkin, Training Manager
G. Kimish, Lead Examination Writer
G. Gardner, Nuclear Training Instructor
T. Laporte, Nuclear Initial Training Supervisor
M. McCue, Operations Superintendent
T. Schenek, Regulatory Assurance Manager

NRC Personnel

R. Kumana, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML21088A202 - FINAL REACTOR OPERATOR (RO) WRITTEN EXAMINATION
Accession No. ML21088A203 - FINAL SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR (SRO) WRITTEN
EXAMINATION
Accession No. ML21095A053 - FINAL OPERATING TEST
Accession No. ML21095A054 - POST-EXAMINATION ANALYSIS