



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

June 21, 2021

Mrs. Maria L. Lacal, Executive Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Arizona Public Service Company
P.O. Box 52034, MS 7602
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

SUBJECT: PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 – NRC
INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT 05000528/2021301, 05000529/2021301, AND
05000530/2021301

Dear Mrs. Lacal:

On June 3, 2021, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3. The enclosed report documents the examination results and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination results were discussed on April 29, 2021, with Mr. Thomas Weber, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs Director, and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on June 3, 2021, with Ms. Dusty Lowdermilk, Nuclear Operations Support Coordinator, and other members of your staff.

The examination included the evaluation of thirteen applicants for instant reactor operator licenses, two applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and six applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined that all applicants satisfied the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (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 "Heather J. Gepford".

Digitally signed by Heather
J. Gepford
Date: 2021.06.21 08:56:18
-05'00'

Heather J. Gepford, Acting Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 05000528, 05000529, and 05000530
License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74

Enclosures:

1. Examination Report 05000528/2021301,
05000529/2021301, and 5000530/2021301
w/attachment: Supplemental Information

cc: Electronic Distribution to Palo Verde Nuclear
Generating Station

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

Docket Numbers: 05000528, 05000529, and 05000530

License Numbers: NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74

Report Numbers: 05000528/2021301, 05000529/2021301, and 05000530/2021301

Enterprise Identifier: L-2021-OLL-0013

Licensee: Arizona Public Service Company

Facility: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

Location: Tonopah, Arizona

Inspection Dates: April 26, 2021, to June 3, 2021

Inspectors: C. Osterholtz, Senior Operations Engineer, Chief Examiner
T. Farina, Senior Operations Engineer
J. Kirkland, Senior Operations Engineer
B. Bergeon, Operations Engineer
M. Doyle, Operations Engineer
M. Hayes, Operations Engineer
S. Hedger, Emergency Preparedness Inspector

Approved By: Heather J. Gepford, Acting Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY

ER 05000528/2021301; 05000529/2021301; 05000530/2021301; 6/3/2021; Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report

The NRC examiners evaluated the competency of thirteen applicants for reactor operator licenses, two applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and six applicants for upgrade senior reactor operator licenses at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3.

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 May 6, 2021. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests during the week of April 26, 2021.

The NRC examiners determined that all 21 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 applicants' 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 May 6, 2021, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all 21 applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on May 14, 2021.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all applicants on April 26-29, 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 no generic weaknesses associated with applicant performance on the written examination.

4. Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The NRC examiners observed simulator performance with regard 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 examination 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. Thomas Weber, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs Director, and other members of the staff on April 29, 2021. A telephonic exit was conducted on June 3, 2021, between Mr. Clyde Osterholtz, chief examiner, and Ms. Dusty Lowdermilk, Nuclear Operations Support Coordinator. The licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

Nawaporn Aaronscooke, Senior Engineer, Licensing
Brian Cable, Site General Plant Manager
Chuck Clark, Operations Manager, Training
Matthew Cox, Section Leader, Licensing
Michael Dilorenzo, Department Leader, Regulatory Affairs
Sean Dornseif, Senior Regulatory Affairs Consultant
Delbert Elkington, Section Leader, Compliance
Jeff Fearn, Director, Nuclear Training Brian Garrettsen, Senior Instructor, Operations Training
Zach Goldwasser, Department Leader, Operations Training
Matt Harkins, Senior Instructor, Operations Training
Todd Horton, Senior Vice President, Site Operations
Sarah Kane, Senior Engineer, Licensing
Matt Kura, Department Leader, Regulator Affairs
Dallon Lott, Director, Operations
Dusty Lowdermilk, Nuclear Operations Support Coordinator
Diane Mohammed, Senior Regulatory Affairs Consultant
Bruce Rash, Vice President, Engineering/Regulatory
John Rodgers, Senior Instructor, Operations Training
Jarred Shaver, Section Leader, Operations Training
Beth Spisak, Executive Assistant
Carl Stephenson, Regulatory Affairs Advisor
Justin Stewart, Section Leader, Operations Training
Kimberlie Sylvester, Executive Assistant
Lorraine Weaver, Senior Regulatory Affairs Consultant
Thomas Weber, Director, Regulatory Affairs

NRC Personnel

C. Peabody, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML21147A542 - FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS
Accession No. ML21147A540 - FINAL OPERATING TEST
Accession No. ML21147A544 - POST-EXAMINATION ANALYSIS

PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1, 2, AND 3 – NRC INITIAL EXAMINATION REPORT
 05000528/2021301, 05000529/2021301, AND 05000530/2021301- DATED JUNE 21, 2021

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML21160A083

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

OFFICE	SOE:OB	SOE:OB	SOE:OB	OE:OB	OE:OB	EPI:RCB
NAME	COsterholtz	JKirkland	TFarina	BBergeon	MDoyle	SHedger
SIGNATURE	<i>CCO</i>	<i>JCK</i>	<i>TJF</i>	<i>BAB</i>	<i>MSD</i>	<i>SDH</i>
DATE	6-9-2021	6-9-2021	6-9-2021	6-9-2021	6/17/2021	6-9-2021
OFFICE	OE:OB	BC:PBD	BC:OB			
NAME	MHayes	JDixon	HGepford			
SIGNATURE	<i>MOH</i>	<i>JLD</i>	<i>HJG</i>			
DATE	6-9-2021	6-9-2021	6/21/21			

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