



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

December 02, 2021

Mr. John Dent, Jr.
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL OPERATOR
LICENSING EXAMINATION 05000298/2022302

Dear Mr. Dent:

In a telephone conversation on November 15, 2021 between myself, Kelly Clayton, Senior Operations Engineer, and Mr. James Florence, Superintendent, Simulator and Training Support, arrangements were made for the administration of the operator licensing examinations at Cooper Nuclear Station during the week of September 19, 2022.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 12 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines by April 22, 2022. The NRC staff provided the written examination outlines on November 23, 2021. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in NUREG 1021, Examination Standard (ES)-2.1, "Preparing for Operator Licensing Examinations," will be due by July 6, 2022. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations, and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or rescheduled. In addition, your support for on-site validation of the examinations is required during the week of August 1, 2022.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with NUREG 1021, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-3.5,

“Administering Operating Tests,” your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes its licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

ES-1.2, “Guidelines for Taking NRC Examinations,” contains NRC guidelines for the written examinations and operating tests as they are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Mr. Clayton should be contacted to determine the method for submission of the waiver and/or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB approval number 3150-0090) and, medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the preliminary applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final, signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests is 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early in the process as possible (see the 60-day guideline, above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers and/or excusals should be in writing (i.e., on NRC Form 398, or as directed when Mr. Clayton is contacted to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these mandatory information collections is estimated to average 400 hours per examination including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. Send comments regarding this information collection to the FOIA, Library, and Information Collections Branch (T-6 A10M), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to Infocollects.Resource@nrc.gov, and to the OMB reviewer at: OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (3150-0018), Attn: Desk Officer for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503, e-mail: oria_submission@omb.eop.gov.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the document requesting or requiring the collection displays a currently valid OMB approval number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible on the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Florence has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact me at 817-200-1216.

Sincerely,



Kelly Clayton, Senior Operations Engineer
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION 05000298/2022302 – DATED DECEMBER 02, 2021

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML21336A525

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

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