



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE RD, STE 102
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-1415

December 17, 2024

Charles McFeaters
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
PSEG Nuclear, LLC – N09
P.O. Box 236
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

**SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION – SENIOR REACTOR AND REACTOR
OPERATOR INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATIONS**

Dear Charles McFeaters:

In a telephone conversation on November 15, 2024, between Joseph DeMarshall, Chief Examiner, and Timothy Catalano, Facility Exam Lead, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Hope Creek Generating Station, during the weeks of August 11, 2025, and August 18, 2025. In addition, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of July 14, 2025.

As agreed upon 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 March 14, 2025. The written examination outline was provided to your staff on November 15, 2024. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in NUREG-1021, Examination Standard (ES)-2.1, "Preparing for Operator Licensing Initial Examinations," will be due by May 28, 2025. Pursuant to Title 10 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 Commission 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 examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be canceled or rescheduled.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, your staff will need to provide adequate space and accommodations 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 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 a number of 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) control number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Joseph DeMarshall, Chief Examiner, to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB control number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB control number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the NRC does not receive the preliminary applications 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 call for at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualifications Statement—Licensee," or as directed by Joseph DeMarshall when contacting him 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.

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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.

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After you have been notified by the NRC Chief Examiner or Branch Chief that operator licenses have been issued, please direct any inquiries concerning a formal presentation of certificates to this office. Our goal is to have the operator certificates available for your celebration. At least one-month advance notice of your celebration arrangements would be appreciated to plan our senior manager attendance and process the certificates.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Timothy Catalano has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions about the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Joseph DeMarshall at (610) 337-5134 or me at (610) 337-5306.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Jackson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

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SUBJECT: HOPE CREEK GENERATING STATION – SENIOR REACTOR AND REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATIONS DATED DECEMBER 17, 2024

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