



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE N.E., SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1200

June 25, 2025

Delson C. Erb, Vice President
Nuclear Regulatory Affairs and Support Services
Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street, LP 4A-C
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT – NRC OPERATOR LICENSE
EXAMINATION REPORT NOS. 05000259/2025301, 05000260/2025301, AND
05000296/2025301

Dear Delson C. Erb:

During the period May 12 – 16, 2025, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating tests to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. On June 17, 2025, the Chief Examiner discussed findings related to the operating tests and the written examination submittal with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on May 20, 2025.

All applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. There were no post-examination comments. A Simulator Fidelity Report is included in this report as Enclosure 2.

The initial examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. All examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and your staff were made according to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 12.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 997-4718.

Sincerely,



Signed by Endress, Matthew
on 06/25/25

Matthew F. Endress, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket Nos: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296
License Nos: DPR-33, DPR-52, and DPR-68

Enclosures:

1. Report Details
2. Simulator Fidelity Report

cc: Distribution via Listserv

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT – NRC OPERATOR LICENSE
EXAMINATION REPORT NOS. 05000259/2025301, 05000260/2025301, AND
05000296/2025301 DATED JUNE 25, 2025

DISTRIBUTION:

D. Lanyi, RII
M. Endress, RII

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML25176A190

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NAME	D. Lanyi	M. Endress			
DATE	06/25/25	06/25/25			

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Examination Report

Docket No.: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296

License No.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Report No.: 05000259/2025301, 05000260/2025301, 05000296/2025301

Enterprise Identifier: L-2025-OLL-0030

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), LLC

Facility: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, and 3

Location: Athens, AL 35611

Dates: Operating Test – May 12 – 16, 2025
Written Examination – May 20, 2025

Examiners: David Lanyi, Chief Examiner, Senior Operations Engineer
Mark Bates, Senior Operations Engineer
Daniel Bacon, Branch Chief, Engineering Branch 2
Michael Donithan, Senior Operations Engineer
Virgel Furr, Operations Engineer
Kenneth Schaaf, Operations Engineer

Approved by: Matthew Endress, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

SUMMARY

ER 05000259/2025301, 05000260/2025301, 05000296/2025301; Operating test May 12 – 16, 2025 & Written examination May 20, 2025; Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant; Operator License Examinations.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners conducted an initial examination in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 12, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements identified in 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45, as applicable.

Members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant staff developed both the operating tests and the written examination. The initial operating test, written RO examination, and written SRO examination submittals met the quality guidelines contained in NUREG-1021.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period May 12 – 16, 2025. Members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on May 20, 2025. All Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. All eight RO and all six SRO applicants were issued licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

There were no post-examination comments.

No findings were identified.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA5 Operator Licensing Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC evaluated the submitted operating test by combining the scenario events and JPMs in order to determine the percentage of submitted test items that required replacement or significant modification. The NRC also evaluated the submitted written examination questions (RO and SRO questions considered separately) in order to determine the percentage of submitted questions that required replacement or significant modification, or that clearly did not conform with the intent of the approved knowledge and ability (K/A) statement. Any questions that were deleted during the grading process, or for which the answer key had to be changed, were also included in the count of unacceptable questions. The percentage of submitted test items that were unacceptable was compared to the acceptance criteria of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Standards for Power Reactors."

The NRC reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations in order to ensure compliance with 10 CFR §55.49, "Integrity of examinations and tests."

The NRC performed an audit of license applications during the preparatory site visit in order to confirm that they accurately reflected the subject applicants' qualifications in accordance with NUREG-1021.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period May 12 – 16, 2025. The NRC examiners evaluated eight Reactor Operator (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants using the guidelines contained in NUREG-1021. Members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on May 20, 2025. Evaluations of applicants and reviews of associated documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, met the requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses."

The NRC evaluated the performance or fidelity of the simulation facility during the preparation and conduct of the operating tests.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

The NRC developed the written examination sample plan outline. Members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant training staff developed both the operating tests and the written examination. All examination material was developed in accordance with the guidelines contained in Revision 12, of NUREG-1021. The NRC examination team reviewed the proposed examination. Examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made per NUREG-1021 and incorporated into the final version of the examination materials.

The NRC determined, using NUREG-1021, that the licensee's initial examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

All applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. All eight RO applicants and all six SRO applicants were issued licenses.

Copies of all individual examination reports were sent to the facility Training Director for evaluation of weaknesses and determination of appropriate remedial training.

The licensee did not submit any post-examination comments. A copy of the final written examination and answer key, with all changes incorporated, may be accessed not earlier than Friday December 17, 2027, in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML25154A408 and ML25154A378).

4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

Exit Meeting Summary

On June 17, 2025, the NRC Chief Examiner discussed issues associated with the operating test and written examination with Mr. Drew Mitchell, Director, Operations, and members of the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant staff. The examiner asked the licensee if any of the examination material was proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee personnel

Drew Mitchell	Director, Plant Operations
Bob Busick	Sr. Manager, Nuclear Organizational Effectiveness
Chris Baxter	Sr. Manager, Maintenance & Tech Training
Jeff Sowa	Sr. Manager, Site Compliance
Russel Joplin	Program Manager, Corporate Nuclear Exam Simulation
Walter Miller	Director, Training
Michael Schulte	Manager, Operations Training Manager
Robbie Davis	Manager, Manager, Operations Training - ILT
David Renn	Site Compliance Manager
Michael Tharpe	Instructor, Operations Lead
Allen Buckner	Instructor, Operations Lead
Mike Millsap	Facility Representative
Ryan Coons	Licensing Engineer

SIMULATOR FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

Facility Docket No.: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296

Operating Test Administered: May 12 – 16, 2025

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.11 are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

No observations were identified.