



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

October 7, 2025

Bruce Buch, Training Director
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority
P. O. Box 2000
Soddy-Daisy, TN 37384-2000

SUBJECT: SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000327/2026301 AND 05000328/2026301

Dear Bruce Buch:

During a telephone conversation on September 30, 2025, between Mr. A. Forsha, Lead Operations Instructor, and Mr. M. Bates, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. The on-site validation/preparatory week is scheduled for the week of June 1, 2026. The operating test is scheduled to be administered during the weeks of July 6, 2026 and July 13, 2026. The written examination is scheduled to be administered the week of July 20, 2026.

As agreed upon during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare both the operating test outlines and the written examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 12 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

Your staff will provide the operating test outlines to the NRC by February 2, 2026. The NRC provided the written examination outlines to your staff on July 28, 2025. Your staff has also agreed to make copies of all examination materials that are necessary for administering the examination. 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 April 13, 2026. 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 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 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 Mr. Bates 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 waiver or excusal requests call for their receipt 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 facility licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (*i.e.*, using NRC Form 398 or as directed by Mr. Bates) 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 OMB, approval number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 2,250 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 collections. Send comments regarding this information collection to the FOIA, Library, and Information Collections Branch (T6-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 (3150-0018), Attn: Desk Officer for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503; email: oir_submission@omb.eop.gov.

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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 control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is

accessible on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Forsha 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 Mr. Bates at (404) 997-4612, (Internet E-mail: Mark.Bates@nrc.gov), or me at (404) 997-4718, (Internet E-mail: Matthew.Endress@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Endress, Matthew
on 10/07/25

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

Docket Nos.: 50-327, 50-328
License Nos.: DPR-77, DPR-79

SUBJECT: SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT – NOTIFICATION OF LICENSED OPERATOR
INITIAL EXAMINATION 05000327/2026301 AND 05000328/2026301 DATED
OCTOBER 07, 2025

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML25280A012

☒ SUNSI Review		☒ Non-Sensitive ☐ Sensitive		☒ Publicly Available ☐ Non-Publicly Available	
OFFICE	RII/DORS	RII/ DORS			
NAME	M. Bates	M. Endress			
DATE	10/07/25	10/07/25			

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