



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

October 24, 2025

Khalil Dia, Site Vice President
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 05000298/2026301**

Dear Mr. Dia:

In a telephone conversation on October 21, 2025, between Mr. Andrew Vaughn, Superintendent, Simulator & Training Support, and myself, Mr. Nicholas Hernandez, Chief Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at Cooper Nuclear Station during the week of June 8, 2026.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 12 to 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 January 5, 2026. The written examination outline was provided to your staff on July 7, 2025. 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 March 23, 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 canceled or rescheduled. In addition, your support for on-site validation of the examinations is required during the week of April 29, 2026.

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 me 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 when I am 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.

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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 OMB, approval number 3150-0018.

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Vaughn 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 me at 817-200-1118, or Patricia Vossmar, Chief, Operations Branch at 817-200-1159.

Sincerely,



Signed by Hernandez, Nicholas
on 10/24/25

Nicholas A. Hernandez, Chief Examiner
Operations Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000298
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