

ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket No.: 50-285
License No.: DPR-40
Report No.: 50-285/99-301
Licensee: Omaha Public Power District
Facility: Fort Calhoun Station
Location: Fort Calhoun Station
FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 399, Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska
Dates: October 25 to 29, 1999
Inspectors: T. O. McKernon, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch
T. F. Stetka, Examiner in Certification, Operations Branch
G. W. Johnston, Examiner, Operations Branch
M. E. Murphy, Examiner, Operations Branch
H. F. Bundy, Examiner, Operations Branch
Approved By: John L. Pellet, Chief, Operations Branch

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Supplemental Information
Attachment 2: Facility Post-Examination Comments
Attachment 3: Written Examinations and Answer Keys

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Fort Calhoun Station
NRC Inspection Report No. 50-285/99-301

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of 10 applicants for operator licenses at the Fort Calhoun Station facility. The NRC examiners developed and administered the initial license examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8. The facility reviewed and commented on the proposed examinations and the chief examiner incorporated those comments, as appropriate, into the final examinations. The written examinations were administered to all 10 applicants on October 22, 1999, by facility proctors in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on October 25 to 29, 1999.

- No findings.

Report Details

Summary of Plant Status

The unit was in a refueling outage for the duration of this inspection.

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA4 Operator Knowledge and Performance

4OA4.1 Initial Written Examination

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the written examination and utilized facility training and operations staff on the security agreement to validate the examination. On October 22, 1999, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examination to all 10 applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their evaluation and resultant comments for examination revision to the NRC on November 5, 1999.

b. Observations and Findings

All 10 applicants passed the written examinations using the final answer key and incorporating comments resulting from licensee and NRC post examination analysis. Scores ranged from 80.8 to 84.8 percent for the reactor operator applicants with an average of 83.6 percent. Scores for the senior operator applicants ranged from 83.8 to 88.8 percent with an average of 86.5 percent.

4OA4.2 Initial Operating Test

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the operating examination and utilized facility training and operations staff on the security agreement to validate the examination. The examination team administered the various portions of the operating test to the 10 applicants on October 25 to 29, 1999. Each applicant participated in two to three dynamic simulator scenarios and received a walkthrough test, which consisted of 10 system tasks (5 for the reactor operator who was upgrading his license to senior operator). Additionally, each applicant was tested on 5 subjects in 4 administrative areas with a combination of administrative tasks and questions.

b. Observations and Findings

The applicants demonstrated proficient 3-way communications, alarm response, and timely crew briefings. However, examiners also observed that, in most instances, applicants failed to verify they had properly implemented annunciator response procedures by referencing the procedure when time permitted. While this was contrary to licensee management expectations, it did not result in significant omissions or errors by the applicants. All applicants passed the operating portion of the examination.

4OA4.3 Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the initial licensing examination in accordance with guidance provided in NUREG-1021, Revision 8. The examination was reviewed with the licensee training staff prior to the preparatory week and validated during the week of October 4, 1999.

b. Observations and Findings

The facility reviewed the draft examinations in the Region IV offices and identified significant overlap with the facility developed audit examinations. As a result, the NRC replaced 30 questions on the written examinations and some of the job performance measures on the operating tests.

4OA4.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Inspection Scope

The examiners observed simulator performance with regard to fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Observations and Findings

No findings identified.

4OA4.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements.

b. Observations and Findings

No findings identified.

4OA5. Management Meetings

.1 Exit Meeting Summary

The examiners presented the inspection results to members of the licensee management at the conclusion of the inspection on October 29, 1999. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

The licensee did not identify as proprietary any information or materials examined during the inspection.

ATTACHMENT 1

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

D. Bannister, Supervisor, Operations
J. Chase, Division Manager, Nuclear Assessments
M. Frans, Manager, Nuclear Licensing
S. Gambhir, Division Manager, Nuclear Operations
W. Gates, Vice President, Nuclear
R. Phelps, Division Manager, Nuclear Engineering
R. Short, Assistant Plant Manager
M. Tesar, Division Manager, Nuclear Support Services
D. Weaver, Supervisor, Operations Training
R. Westcott, Manager, Nuclear Training

ATTACHMENT 2

FACILITY POST-EXAMINATION COMMENTS