

# An Operators Perspective of Operator Initial and Requalification Training

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# Introduction

- PROS has about 400 members (Mostly Licensed Operators) nationwide
- Participated in two initial licensing processes
  - Reactor Operator 2004
  - Senior Reactor Operator 2013
- Involved in requalification training since 2004

# Introduction

- Operator Licensing Process is one of the most challenging programs in any industry.
- NRC pass rate is about 92%, but through-put numbers from start of program are about 70 to 75% for ROs and 75 to 80% for SROs (2009 to 2016).
- Operator Licensing is important to ensure “competent” Operators are trained and available to “Protect the Health and Safety” of the public.

# Initial Licensing (Issues)

- Need to ensure that NUREG-1021 process is fair and equal across the industry.
- Due to K/A and NUREG-1021 requirements the written test is actually closer to 100 to 125 question due to questions having to be written as two-part to meet these requirements.
- SRO-only questions do not have the same standard across NRC regions. Even down to the individual examiners themselves.

# Initial Licensing (Issues)

- Operator concerns about maintaining the expertise of both Examiners and Licensee test writers due to retirements. Knowledge Retention of NUREG-1021 processes.

# Initial Licensing (Improvements)

- NRC workshops to help Licensee Exam Writers better understand process.
- Better communications between Examiners and Exam Writers have improved overall product of tests.
- Licensees getting more and better feedback from Licensed Operators to improve tests.

# Requalification

- 10 CFR 55.59 has the guidance for Requalification of Licensed Operators.
- NRC has oversight of biannual testing process. The biannual testing is a written exam, Simulator set, and Job Performance Measures.
- NRC inspects one week of this examination to ensure Licensees are following guidelines.
- INPO does the reaccreditation of Licensed Operator Programs.

# NUREG 1021 Rev. 11

## Changes

- Operators see issues with the new Simulator Grading system. Need to look at these issues.
- The 0 to 3 grading scale is fine, but the way points are only taken away for mistakes could lead to more simulator failure. No addition of points for correct responses on tests.
- For example on Tech. Spec. calls by Senior Reactor Operators there are multiple sections for different Tech. Spec. that could be seen in a scenario.



# NUREG-1021 Rev. 11

## Changes

- Suggest having longer timelines for Examiners and Licensees to start the development of NRC test. This would lead to having all issues resolved and not being rushed at the end. Better overall test product for Operators.
- Attachment 2 of ES-401 for SRO-only questions gives good examples and has good explanation of SRO-only question requirements. Need to ensure that this applied uniformly across NRC Regions and examiners.

# NUREG-1021 Rev. 11

## Changes

- ES-401N is for written criteria for the new style sites such as ABWR and AP-1000. Why is there not a guide for the Simulator portion of the tests?

# Closing

- NUREG 1021 Rev. 11 changes need to ensure the process is still sound, but does not adversely affect Operator Licensing.
- Operator Licensing is important to maintaining NRC's main goal of "Protecting the Health and Safety of the Public"