



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

April 13, 2000

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. J. A. Scalice
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

**SUBJECT: REACTOR AND SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL EXAMINATIONS
SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT - 50-327/2000-301 AND 50-328/2000-301**

Dear Scalice:

In a telephone conversation on April 12, 2000 between Mr. Walt Hunt, Operations Training Manager and Mr. D. Charles Payne, Chief Examiner arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at your Sequoyah Nuclear Plant during the weeks of August 7, 2000 and August 14, 2000.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the reactor operator and senior reactor operator written examinations per the sample plan previously transmitted and following the guidelines in Revision 8 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. The NRC will prepare the operating tests. Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the examinations during the week of July 10, 2000.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the proposed written examinations and associated reference materials by June 19, 2000. The reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 to support NRC development of the operating tests will be due by May 15, 2000. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required examinations and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled. Additionally, to support development and review of the operating test items, it will be necessary for your staff to make the simulation facility available the weeks of July 10, 2000 and July 24, 2000.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0101, which expires on September 30, 2000. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0101), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Hunt 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. Payne at (404) 562-4669, (Internet E-mail: DCP@NRC.GOV), or myself at (404) 562-4638, (Internet E-mail: HOC@NRC.GOV).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Harold O. Christensen, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: (See page 3)

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