

April 19, 2000

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum
Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Seabrook Station
North Atlantic Energy Service Corporation
c/o Mr. James M. Peschel
P.O. Box 300
Seabrook, NH 03874

SUBJECT: SEABROOK STATION SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR INITIAL
EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 05000443/2000-301

Dear Mr. Feigenbaum:

This report transmits the findings of the senior reactor operator (SRO) licensing examinations, conducted by NRC examiners, during the week of March 6 - 9, 2000, at the Seabrook Station. Based on the results of the examinations, all ten of the SRO applicants passed all portions of the examination. On March 30, 2000, Mr. D. Silk, via telephone conference call, discussed the generic findings with members of your staff and on April 4, 2000; I informed your staff of the examination results.

The examinations addressed areas important to public health and safety and were developed and administered under Revision 8 of the Examiner Standards (NUREG-1021). All portions of the examinations were developed by Seabrook Station personnel, while the NRC staff provided oversight and final approval prior to the administration of the examinations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

No reply to this letter is required, but should you have any questions regarding these examinations, please contact me at 610-337-5183 or by E-mail at RJC@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000443
NPF-86

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

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Enclosure: Initial Examination Report No. 05000443/2000-301

cc w/encl; w/Attachment 1:

R. Hickok, Manager - Nuclear Training

cc w/encl; w/o Attachment 1:

B. D. Kenyon, President and Chief Executive Officer

J. M. Peschel, Manager - Regulatory Programs

W. A. DiProfio, Station Director - Seabrook Station

D. E. Carriere, Director, Production Services

L. M. Cuoco, Esquire, Senior Nuclear Counsel

D. A. Smith, Manager of Regulatory Affairs, Northeast Nuclear Energy Company

W. Fogg, Director, New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management

D. McElhinney, RAC Chairman, FEMA RI, Boston, Mass

R. Backus, Esquire, Backus, Meyer and Solomon, New Hampshire

D. Brown-Couture, Director, Nuclear Safety, Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency

F. W. Getman, Jr., Vice President and Chief Executive Office, BayCorp Holdings, LTD

R. Hallisey, Director, Dept. of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Seacoast Anti-Pollution League

D. Tefft, Administrator, Bureau of Radiological Health, State of New Hampshire

S. Comley, Executive Director, We the People of the United States

W. Meinert, Nuclear Engineer

S. Allen, Polestar Applied Technology, Incorporated

Mr. Ted C. Feigenbaum

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Distribution w/encl; w/Attachment 1:

DRS Master Exam File

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Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

Distribution w/encl; w/o Attachment 1: (VIA ADAMS)

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B. Holian, DRS

D. Silk, Chief Examiner, DRS

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OFFICE	RI/DRS		RI/DRP		RI/DRS				
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DATE	04/05/00		04/19/00		04/19/00				

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION I

Docket No: 05000443

Report No: 05000443/2000-301

License No: NPF-86

Licensee: North Atlantic Energy Service Company

Facility: Seabrook Station

Location: Seabrook, New Hampshire

Dates: March 6 - 9, 2000 (Administration)
March 13 - 17, 2000 (Grading)

Chief Examiner: D. Silk, Sr. Emergency Preparedness Inspector

Examiners: L. Briggs, Senior Operations Engineer
T. Fish, Operations Engineer

Approved By: Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operational Safety Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seabrook Station
Inspection Report No. 05000443/2000-301

Operations

All ten senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants (two instants and eight upgrades) passed all portions of the initial license examination.

The applicants performed well during the operating portions of the examination. The applicants appeared, for the most part, to be well prepared for the examination, indicating that the facility thoroughly evaluated the knowledge and ability of each candidate in an effort to determine their readiness for an initial NRC SRO examination.

The training department did an excellent job in following the guidance in the examiner standards during the development of the examinations. With few exceptions, excellent attention to detail, by Seabrook Station training personnel, prevailed throughout the examination development process.

Report Details

I. Operations

05 Operator Training and Qualifications

05.1 Senior Reactor Operator Initial Examinations

a. Scope

The examinations were prepared by Seabrook Station personnel in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 8, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors". The initial operator licensing examinations were administered to ten senior reactor operator (SRO) applicants (two instant and eight upgrades). The NRC staff administered the operating portion of the examinations, whereas the written examinations were administered by the Seabrook Station training organization prior to the start of the operating examinations.

b. Observations and Findings

The results of the SRO examinations are summarized below:

SRO Pass/Fail

Written	10/0
Operating	10/0
Overall	10/0

Individuals involved in the examination development, review, and administration signed onto the security agreement as required. Seabrook Station personnel validated the examination prior to their submitting it to the NRC. During the exam preparation week of February 14, 2000, the NRC subsequently reviewed and validated, together with Seabrook Station personnel, all portions of the proposed examinations. Only minor changes were required for the written exam and the JPMs. The simulator scenarios required no changes.

The written portion of the examination was administered by Seabrook Station training personnel on March 3, 2000 and consisted of 100 multiple choice questions. The licensee submitted no comments regarding the written exam questions.

The operating portion of the examination was conducted from March 6 - 9, 2000, and consisted of three simulator scenarios for each applicant. Ten JPMs were administered to the two SRO instant applicants and five JPMs were administered to the eight SRO upgrade applicants. Administrative JPMs were developed and administered to evaluate the administrative requirement portion of the examination.

Seabrook Station training personnel provided to the NRC an analysis of the written examination in an effort to identify any generic weaknesses associated with any specific topic area that was examined. Seven questions were identified by the licensee as having generic implications since five or more applicants incorrectly responded to those questions.

Simulator performance by the applicants was good as evidenced by good communications, oversight of simulated conditions, procedural implementation, and team work.

During the administrative portion of the operating examination, several applicants demonstrated unfamiliarity with the use of 1/M plots during refueling although the applicants did demonstrate appropriate concern for monitoring the approach to criticality.

During the performance of a control room system JPM, two applicants demonstrated difficulty completing the task which was recognizing and implementing reactor coolant pump trip criteria during emergencies.

c. Conclusions

The applicants performed well during the operating portions of the examination. The applicants appeared, for the most part, to be well prepared for the examination, indicating that the facility thoroughly evaluated the knowledge and ability of each candidate in an effort to determine their readiness for an initial NRC SRO examination.

The training department did an excellent job in implementing the guidance set forth in the examiner standards during the development of the examinations. With few exceptions, excellent attention to detail prevailed throughout the examination development process.

V. Management Meetings

X1 Exit Meeting Summary

On March 30, 2000, via telephone, the NRC discussed their observations regarding the examination with Seabrook Station operations and training management representatives. The examiner discussed generic candidate performance, as observed during the administration of the simulator scenarios and job performance measures. On April 4, 2000, license numbers for the ten applicants who passed the examination were provided.

The NRC also expressed their appreciation for the cooperation and assistance that was provided during both the preparation and examination week by licensee training and operations personnel.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Seabrook Station

T. Cassidy, Operations Training Supervisor
M. DeBa, Assistant Operations Manager
T. Feigenbaum, Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
J. Grillo, Assistant Station Director
R. Hickok, Training Manager
S. Kessinger, Simulator Support Instructor
M. Ossing, NRC Coordinator
M. Sketchley, Unit Supervisor
J. Sobotka, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor
K. Thibodeau, LOIT Instructor
K. Wright, LOUT Program Coordinator

NRC

D. Silk, Senior Emergency Preparedness Inspector
L. Briggs, Senior Operations Engineer
T. Fish, Operations Engineer
J. Brand, Seabrook Station Resident Inspector

Attachment: Seabrook Station SRO Written Examination w/Answer Key

ATTACHMENT 1

SEABROOK STATION SRO WRITTEN EXAMINATION W/ANSWER KEY