



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
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March 2, 2001

J. H. Swailes, Vice President of  
Nuclear Energy  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

**SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING  
RETAKE EXAMINATION NO. 50-298/01-301**

Dear Mr. Swailes:

In a telephone conversation on January 30, 2001, between Messrs. T. McKernon, Chief Examiner, and D. Olesen, Operations Training, arrangements were made for the administration of a licensing retake examination at Cooper Nuclear Station during the week of March 26, 2001. This retake examination will involve a written examination for a reactor operator. In accordance with Section D.1.a of ES-204 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," the NRC regional office intends to waive Categories A, B, and C of the operating test for the applicant, upon proper application.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examination based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1 of NUREG-1021. We will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examination is administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines and the written examination, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 by March 12, 2001. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests 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 examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examination, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402.

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

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit the reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 15 days before the first examination date, March 29, 2001, no later than March 14, 2001. If the application is not received at least 14 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary.

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 3150-3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003.

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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. D. Olesen 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. T. McKernon at 817-860-8153.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298  
DPR 46

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