



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

May 8, 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 EXAMINATION REPORT 50-298/01-301

Dear Mr. Swailes:

On March 29, 2001, the NRC completed a retake examination at your Cooper Nuclear Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on April 10, 2001, with Mr. Don Olesen of your staff.

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).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-298/01-301

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ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR 46
Report No.: 50-298/01-301
Licensee: Nebraska Public Power District
Facility: Cooper Nuclear Station
Location: P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska
Dates: March 29, 2001
Inspector: T. O. McKernon, Senior Operations Engineer
Approved By: Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 50-298/01-301; on March 30, 2001; Nebraska Public Power District; Cooper Nuclear Station; retake examination.

NRC examiner evaluated the competency of one applicant for a reactor operator license at the Cooper Nuclear Station facility. The facility developed the written examination using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. The written examination was administered to the applicant on the morning of March 29, 2001, by facility proctors in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC chief examiner reviewed the grading of the examination on April 9, 2001.

Cross-Cutting Issues: Human Performance

- The applicant passed the retake examination (Section 4OA4.1).

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA4 Retake License Examination

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Inspection Scope

The licensee developed the written examination using facility training and operations staff on the security agreement to prepare and validate the examination. On March 29, 2001, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examination to the applicant. The licensee staff graded the written examination, analyzed the results, and presented their evaluation to the NRC on April 5, 2001. The categories of the operating test were waived on March 26, 2001.

b. Findings

The applicant passed the written examination. The reactor operator applicant scored 84 percent.

The licensee did not recommend any questions for modification during their post-examination review. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system under Accession Nos. ML011280214 and ML011270228.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The facility training staff developed the written retake examination in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1.

.2.1 Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Inspection Scope

The facility licensee submitted the written and operating examination outlines and the draft examinations on March 12, 2001. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee on March 21, 2001. The licensee incorporated any substantive comments and prepared the examination for administering on March 29, 2001.

b. Findings

Region IV approved the retake examination outline and determined that the written examination initially submitted by the licensee was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

40A5 Management Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

The examiner presented the examination results to Mr. Don Olesen during a telephone conference at the conclusion of the inspection on April 10, 2001. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

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

ATTACHMENT
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Licensee

R. Fisher, Operations Training Supervisor
D. Oleson, Retake Exam Coordinator

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

RO Examination Questions and Answer Key - Accession No. ML011280214
Licensee Post-Examination Comments Letter-Accession No. ML011270228