



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

January 7, 2002

Otto L. Maynard, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

**SUBJECT: WOLF CREEK GENERATING STATION - NRC EXAMINATION
REPORT 50-482/01-301**

Dear Mr. Maynard:

On December 14, 2001, the NRC completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Wolf Creek Generating Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings which were discussed on December 14, 2001, with Mr. Britt McKinney and other members of your staff.

The examinations included an evaluation of three applicants for reactor operator licenses and four applicants for senior operator licenses. We determined that all applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings of significance were identified.

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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

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

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42

Enclosure:
NRC Examination Report
50-482/01-301

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation -2-

cc w/enclosure:

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ENCLOSURE

NRC EXAMINATION REPORT

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV**

Docket: 50-482
License: NPF-42
Report No.: 50-482/01-301
Licensee: Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
Facility: Wolf Creek Generating Station
Location: 1550 Oxen Lane, NE
Burlington, Kansas
Dates: December 10-14, 2001
Chief Examiner: Howard F. Bundy, Senior Operations Engineer
Examiners: Paul C. Gage, Senior Operations Engineer
Gary W. Johnston, Senior Operations Engineer
Accompanying Personnel: N. Valos, Examiner-in-Training
Approved By: Anthony T. Gody, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Wolf Creek Generating Station NRC Examination Report 50-482/01-301

ER 05000482/01-301 on 12/10-13/01, Wolf Creek Generating Station, operator licensing examinations.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of three applicants for reactor operator licenses and four applicants for senior operator licenses at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2. The licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. Licensee proctors administered the written examinations to all applicants on December 7, 2001, in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on December 10-14, 2001.

Cornerstone: Other

No findings of significance were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA4 Initial License Examinations

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

The NRC examination team administered the operating examinations to the seven applicants on December 10-14, 2001. Most of the applicants participated in two or three dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of one task or two questions in five areas. The applicant for upgrading his reactor operator license to a senior operator license participated in only one scenario and took a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of only five system tasks. His administrative test consisted of performing tasks in five areas.

On December 7, 2001, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all seven applicants and forwarded the proposed grades together with the performance analysis to the NRC for approval.

b. Findings

All applicants passed all parts of the examinations. For the written examinations, the average score for reactor operator applicants was 88.0 percent, and the average score for senior operator applicants was 85.3 percent. The reactor operator applicant scores ranged from 84 to 91 percent, and the senior operator applicant scores ranged from 82 to 87 percent.

The licensee conducted a performance analysis for the written examinations with emphasis on 13 questions missed by half or more of the applicants. After reviewing the licensee's analysis, the examiners concluded that all questions were valid and that there were was one apparent training deficiency which the licensee is addressing in its corrective action program. There were no post-examination comments on examination questions. The text of the examination questions and the performance analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the attachment.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The licensee developed the examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1. Licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination development were on a security agreement.

.2.1 Operating Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee submitted the operating examination outlines on June 1, 2001. Examiners reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1, and forwarded minor comments to the licensee on June 11, 2001. The facility licensee submitted the draft examination package on October 19, 2001. Examiners reviewed the draft submittals against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1 and provided comments to the licensee on November 8, 2001. The chief examiner conducted an onsite validation of the examinations and provided further comments during the week of November 12, 2001. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution November 28, 2001.

b. Findings

Examiners approved the initial examination outline with minor comments and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

The chief examiner determined that the operating examinations initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination and were satisfactory.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2.2 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The examination team observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

One potential simulator deficiency noted during validation had been previously identified by the licensee and the applicants had been previously advised. It involved an unexpected reactor coolant system pressure drop when the pressurizer level reached about 97 percent level when responding to a main steam line break. The validation crew was aware of this potential anomaly and it had no significant effect on examination administration. Wolf Creek Simulator Modification Request was issued on October 11, 2001, to resolve this potential deficiency.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2.3 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during the onsite preparation and examination administration weeks with respect to NUREG-1021 requirements. Written plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA5 Management Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

The examination team presented the examination results to Mr. Britt McKinney, Vice President, Operations, and other members of the licensee's management staff at the conclusion of the examinations on December 14, 2001. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

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

ATTACHMENT

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

K. Hughes, Regulatory Specialist, Regulatory Affairs
M. Guyer, Superintendent, Operations Support
R. Murray, License Supervising Instructor, Initial Exams
A. Palmer, Superintendent, Operations Training
K. Hall, Supervisor, Licensing
E. Taylor, License Supervising Instructor, Initial Programs
B. McKinney, Vice President, Operations
S. Hedges, Acting Plant Manager
T. Harris, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
R. Acree, Examination Author, Training
M. Hicks, Manager, Operations

NRC

F. Brush, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No.: ML 013520554 - Written examination for reactor and senior reactor operators

Accession No.: ML 013600061 - Written examination performance analysis and applicant questions