

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

**FOR THE PALISADES EXAMINATION - DECEMBER 2001**

December 31, 2001

Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

ATTN: Michael E. Bielby

**PALISADES INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION POST EXAM SUBMITTAL**

In accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, Nuclear Management Company, LLC, is providing the following materials for the Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) and Reactor Operator (RO) initial license written examinations that were administered on December 21, 2001:

- Master RO Written Exam and Answer Key (on floppy disk 1 of 1)
- Master SRO Written Exam and Answer Key (on floppy disk 1 of 1)
- RO/SRO Written Exam Comments with Proposed Resolutions
- RO/SRO Written Exam Candidate Comments
- Original Candidate Written Exam Cover and Answer Sheets (6)
- Copy of Candidate Written Exam Cover and Answer Sheets (6)
- NUREG-1021 Form ES-403-1, "Written Examination Grading Quality Checklist"
- RO/SRO Written Exam Administration Questions and Proctor Responses
- Copy of NUREG-1021 Form ES-201-3, "Examination Security Agreement"  
(original will be forwarded at later date per Chief Examiner)
- Exam Seating Chart

Please contact Walter E. Nelson at (616) 764-2348 if you have any questions regarding these documents.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurie A. Lahti for".

Laurie A. Lahti  
Manager, Licensing

Enclosures

## Palisades Dec. 2001 Initial Licensing Exam

### Post Exam Submittal

1. Master RO Written Exam and Key (on floppy, per Chief Examiner)
2. Master SRO Written Exam and Key (on floppy, per Chief Examiner. Also per the Chief Examiner, this disk contains all JPMs and scenarios in their final, as administered, form).
3. RO/SRO Written Exam Comments with Proposed Resolutions
4. RO/SRO Written Exam Candidate Comments
5. Original Candidate Written Exam Cover and Answer Sheets
6. Copy of Candidate Written Exam Cover and Answer Sheets
7. NUREG-1021 Form ES-403-1, "Written Examination Grading Quality Checklist"
8. RO/SRO Written Exam Administration Questions and Proctor Responses
9. NUREG-1021 Form ES-201-3, "Examination Security Agreement". NOTE: Per special direction of the Chief Examiner, Mike Bielby, the original is being held until all signoff signatures can be obtained, due to the delay for the holidays.
10. Seating Chart

***Palisades Dec. 2001 Initial Licensing Exam***

***Written Exam Comments and Proposed Resolutions***

***NONE***

***Palisades Dec. 2001 Initial Licensing Exam***

***Written Exam Candidate Comments***

***NONE***

August 2, 2001

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper  
Site Vice President  
Palisades Nuclear Plant  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043-9530

Dear Mr. Cooper:

In a telephone conversation on August 1, 2001, between Mr. Walt Nelson, Initial License Training Supervisor, and Mr. Hironori Peterson, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Palisades Nuclear Power Station the week of December 17, 2001. In addition, the NRC will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of November 26, 2001.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 8, Supplement 1, 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.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by October 1, 2001. The written examinations, operating tests, and the supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 will be due by November 5, 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 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.

ML012140555

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

The public reporting burden for this collection 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, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 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. Nelson 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. Mike Bielby at 630-829-9762, or me at 630-829-9733.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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).

Sincerely,



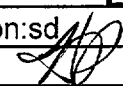


David E. Hills, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-255  
License No. DPR-20

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRS\pal08\_01drs.wpd

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIII	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	RIII	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E				
NAME	HPeterson:sd		DEHills					
DATE	08/2/01		08/2/01					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY



cc: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear  
Fossil and Hydro Operations  
N. Haskell, Director, Licensing and Performance Assessment  
R. Anderson, Chief Nuclear Officer, NMC  
A. Udrys, Esquire, Consumers Energy Company  
S. Wawro, Nuclear Asset Director, Consumers Energy Company  
W. Rendell, Supervisor, Covert Township  
Office of the Governor  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Department of Attorney General (MI)  
E. Bogue, Training Department

ADAMS Distribution:

D. C. Trimble, NRR:DIPM:IOLB  
CMC1  
DFT  
DSH  
RidsNrrDipmlipb  
GEG  
HBC  
JAL3  
DRPIII  
DRSIII  
PLB1  
JRK1  
MAB (concurrence copy)

March 13, 2000

Mr. Thomas J. Palmisano  
Site Vice President and General Manager  
Palisades Nuclear Generating Plant  
Consumers Energy Company  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043-9530

Dear Mr. Palmisano:

In response to N. L. Haskell's letter dated September 29, 1999, we have tentatively scheduled an initial licensing examination for your operator license applicants during the weeks of December 10 and 17, 2001. Validation of the examination will occur at the station during the week of November 26, 2001. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

As stated in the enclosure to Mr. Haskell's letter and confirmed in a telephone conversation between D. Rogers and D. Hills on March 2, 2000, your staff will develop the examination.

Mr. Haskell's letter indicated you are training approximately 12 candidates for the examination. Please inform us if the number of candidates declines below 10 as this will impact the examination schedule. Please also inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you are unable to support the examination on the scheduled dates.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the examination outlining examination security expectations, listing the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirming the examination dates, and reconfirming the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mary Ann Bies of my staff at 630-829-9711.

Sincerely,



David E. Hills, Chief  
Operations Branch

Docket No. 50-255  
License No. DPR-20

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRS\PAL03\30.WPD

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIII	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	RIII	<input type="checkbox"/> N	RIII	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E	
NAME	MABies:jp <i>male</i>		AMStone <i>AMS</i>		DHills <i>DOH</i>		
DATE	03/ 8/00		03/09/00		03/11/00		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

cc: R. Fenech, Senior Vice President, Nuclear  
Fossil and Hydro Operations  
D. Malone, Acting Director, Licensing  
R. Whale, Michigan Public Service Commission  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Department of Attorney General (MI)  
Emergency Management Division, MI Department  
of State Police  
D. W. Rogers, Training Department

Distribution:

J. Caldwell, RIII  
SRI Palisades  
DRP  
DRS  
RIII PRR  
PUBLIC IE-42  
Docket File  
GREENS  
D. C. Trimble, NRR:DIPM:IOLB

**Consumers Energy**

A CMS Energy Company

Palisades Nuclear Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043

cc: H. Peterson

First	Second
RA	RC
DRA	EIC
DRP	SGA
DRS	OI
DNMS	PAO
DRMA	

TEL 516 764 2276  
FAX 516 764 3200

**Nathan L. Haskell**  
Director, Licensing

September 29, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001


**DOCKET 50-255 - LICENSE DPR-20 - PALISADES PLANT**  
**VOLUNTARY RESPONSE TO NRC ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER 99-03:**  
**PREPARATION AND SCHEDULING OF OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

NRC Administrative Letter 99-03 entitled, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations," requested that licensees provide, on a voluntary basis, a completed Attachment 1 (NRC Form 536 [July 1999], "Operator Licensing Examination Data"), providing: A) Proposed Examination Preparation Schedule; B) Initial Operator License Examinations; and, C) Proposed Generic Fundamentals Examination Schedule. The purpose of these estimates is to assist the NRC in budgeting and scheduling the use of its resources.

In response to this request, Consumers Energy estimates have been completed on NRC Form 536 and are attached.

**SUMMARY OF COMMITMENTS**

This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.

  
Nathan L. Haskell  
Director, Licensing

CC: Administrator, Region III, USNRC  
Project Manager, NRR, USNRC  
Resident Inspector, USNRC - Palisades

Attachment

OCT 1

NRC FORM 536  
(7-1999)

US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED BY OMB NO 3150-01 31

EXPIRES 07/31/2002

**OPERATOR LICENSING  
EXAMINATION DATA**

Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records Management Branch (T-6 E6) US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001 or by internet email to bjs1@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

FACILITY  
Palisades Nuclear Plant  
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway  
Covert, MI 49043

NRC REGION III

DOCKET 50-255 LICENSE DPR-20 PALISADES PLANT

**A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY2000	CY2001	CY2002	CY2003
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	1	1	0	1

**B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY2000	CY2001	CY2002	CY2003
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS	2	6	0	6
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS-INSTANT	5	4	0	4
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS-UPGRADE	1	2	0	2
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS-LIMITED	0	0	0	0
PROPOSED DATES				
PRIMARY DATE	05/22/00	12/03/01	n/a	4 or 5/03
ALTERNATE DATE	none	12/10/01	n/a	11 or 12/03

**C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY2000		CY2001	
	FIRST	SECOND	FIRST	SECOND
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	0	10	0	0