



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

December 20, 2004

Joseph E. Venable
Vice President Operations
Waterford 3
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17265 River Road
Killona, Louisiana 70066-0751

**SUBJECT: WATERFORD 3 STEAM ELECTRIC STATION - NRC EXAMINATION
REPORT 50-382/2004-301**

Dear Mr. Venable:

On November 18, 2004, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an examination at Waterford 3. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on November 18, 2004, with you and other members of your staff.

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

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,

/RA/

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

Docket: 50-382
License: NPF-38

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cc w/enclosure:

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

Dockets: 50-382

Licenses: NPF-38

Report : 50-382/2004-301

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear South

Facility: Waterford 3 SES

Location: 17265 River Road
Kilona, LA 70066

Dates: November 15-18, 2004

Examiners: M. E. Murphy, Chief Examiner, Operations Branch
T. F. Stetka, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch
G. W. Johnston, Senior Operations Engineer, Operations Branch

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

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000382/2004-301, 11/15-18/2004; Waterford 3 Nuclear Generating Station, Initial Operator Licensing Examinations.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of three applicants for senior reactor operator upgrade, one applicant for senior reactor operator instant, and four applicants for reactor operator licenses at Waterford 3. The facility licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Draft Revision 9, as part of a pilot program. Licensee proctors administered the written examination to all applicants on November 12, 2004, in accordance with the instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC administered the operating tests on November 15-18, 2004.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA4 Initial Operator License Examination

.1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Examination Scope

On November 12, 2004, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all eight applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on November 24, 2004.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to all eight applicants on November 15-18, 2004. The four applicants for senior operator licenses and the four applicants for reactor operator licenses participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios. The one applicant for instant senior operator participated in a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 10 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of 5 administrative tasks. The three applicants for upgrade to senior operator participated in a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 5 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of 5 administrative tasks. The four applicants for reactor operator participated in a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 11 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of four administrative tasks.

b. Findings

All eight of the applicants passed all parts of the examinations. The applicants demonstrated good 3-way communications, diagnostics, and peer checking. For the written examinations, the senior operator applicant's average score was 94 percent and ranged from 90 to 97 percent, the reactor operator applicant's average score was 86.6 percent and ranged from 84 to 89.3 percent. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment.

The licensee's staff conducted a performance analysis for the written examinations, submitting them to the chief examiner on November 24, 2004. The analysis identified no common knowledge deficiencies. No remediation training was determined to be necessary following the examinations.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The licensee developed the examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9, as part of the pilot program. All licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination preparation and validation were on a security agreement.

.2.1 Examination Outline and Examination Package

a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee submitted the integrated examination outlines on August 13, 2004. The chief examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9, and provided comments to the licensee. The facility licensee submitted the final draft examination package on October 1, 2004. The chief examiner reviewed the draft submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Draft Revision 9, and provided comments to the licensee on the examination during preparation week, October 25-28, 2004. Preliminary applications were received October 13, 2004. The chief examiner reviewed 10 percent of the applications and requested additional information.

b. Findings

The NRC approved the initial examination outline and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

The chief examiner reviewed the supporting information requested for the application review and confirmed that they accurately reflected the applicants' qualifications. The review confirmed the applicants' experience and on-the-job training, including reactivity manipulations complied with 10CFR Part 55.

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

No findings of significance were identified.

.3 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Examination Scope

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

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

.4 Examination Security

a. Examination Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements.

Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA5 Management Meeting

.1 Exit Meetings

The chief examiner presented the examination results to the Vice President of Operations and other members of his staff on November 18, 2004. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

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

ATTACHMENT

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

J. Venable, Vice President - Operations
K. Walsh, Plant Manager
R. Madjerich, Operations Manager
A. Hall, Operations Training Supervisor
A. Vest, Senior Operations Instructor
R. Murillo, Licensing Manager

NRC

Michael Hay, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession ml043550034 - Written examination for senior and reactor operators and key