



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

December 1, 2005

Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. H. L. Sumner, Jr.
Vice President - Hatch Plant
P. O. Box 1295
Birmingham, AL 35201-1295

SUBJECT: EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
05000321/2005301 AND 05000366/2005301

Dear Mr. Sumner:

During the period October 31 - November 4, 2005, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating tests to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the tests, the examiners discussed the tests and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on October 28, 2005.

Five Reactor Operator (RO) and Five Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the written examination and operating test. There were no post examination comments. A Simulation Facility Report is included in this report in Enclosure 2.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 562-4647.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James H. Moorman, III, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-321, 50-366
License Nos.: DPR-57, NPF-5

Enclosures: (See page 2)

Enclosures: 1. Report Details
2. Simulation Facility Report

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 50-321, 50-366

License Nos.: DPR-57, NPF-5

Report No.: 05000321/2005301 and 05000366/2005301

Licensee: Southern Nuclear Company (SNC)

Facility: Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 & 2

Location: 11030 Hatch Pkwy N.
Baxley, Ga. 31513

Dates: Operating Tests - October 31 - November 4, 2005
Written Examination - October 28, 2005

Examiners: R. Aiello, Chief, Senior Operations Examiner
G. Laska, Senior Operations Engineer
G. Hopper, Senior Operations Engineer
T. Kolb, Operations Engineer

Approved by: James H. Moorman, III, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000321/2005301, ER05000366/2005301; 10/28 & 10/31-11/04/2005; Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 & 2, Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC examiners conducted operator licensing initial examinations in accordance with the guidance in NUREG-1021, Revision 9, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements of 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period of October 31 - November 4, 2005. Members of the Hatch Nuclear Plant training staff administered the written examination on October 28, 2005. The written examinations were developed by the NRC. The Hatch Nuclear Plant training staff developed the operating test outlines and its corresponding details.

Five Reactor Operators (RO) and five Senior Reactor Operators (SRO) passed both the operating test and written examination. All of the applicants were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered. There were no post examination comments.

No findings of significance were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA5 Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the written examination in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9. The licensee's examination team reviewed the proposed written examinations and developed the operating test. Examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made according to NUREG-1021 and incorporated into the final version of the examination materials.

The examiners reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations to ensure examination security and integrity complied with 10 CFR 55.49, "Integrity of examinations and tests."

The examiners evaluated five RO and five SRO applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests during the period of October 31 and November 4, 2005. The written examination was administered by the Hatch Nuclear Plant training staff on October 28, 2005. The evaluations of the applicants and review of documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Hatch Nuclear Plant, met requirements specified in 10 CFR 55, "Operators' Licenses."

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

The NRC determined that the details provided by the licensee for the walkthrough and simulator tests were within the range of acceptability expected for the proposed tests. Five RO and five SRO applicants passed both the operating test and written examination.

The combined RO and SRO written examinations with knowledge and abilities (K/As) question references/answers and examination references may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Numbers, ML053330438 and ML053330434).

The exam team noted several generic weaknesses during the examination. Several of the applicants demonstrated a weakness in their ability to calculate a radiation exposure (Admin JPM "c"). Communications (as outlined in DI-OPS-59-0896, Operations Management Expectations, Paragraph 5.15) were inconsistent throughout the simulator portion of the examination. Several crews demonstrated difficulty in maintaining water level control when the Startup Level Control Valve was Failed in Scenario 4.

4OA6 Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

On November 4, 2005, the examination team discussed generic issues with Mr. John C. Lewis and members of his staff. The inspectors asked the licensee whether any materials examined during the inspection should be considered proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee personnel

C. Edmund, Nuclear Operations Plant Instructor
G. Frederick, Nuclear Plant General Manager
C. Goodman, Shift Support Supervisor, Training Coordinator
S. Grantham, Nuclear Operations Training Supervisor
E. Jones, Nuclear Operations Plant Instructor
J. Lewis, Training and Emergency Preparedness Manager
R. Musgrove, Operations Support Superintendent
K. Underwood, Performance Analysis Supervisor

NRC personnel

D. Simpkins, Senior Resident Inspector
J. Hickey, Resident Inspector

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2

Facility Docket Nos.: 05000321 and 05000366

Operating Tests Administered on: October 31 - November 4, 2005

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with IP 71111.11, are not indicative of noncompliance in accordance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

While conducting the simulator portion of the operating tests, examiners observed the following items:

4. During the NRC simulator examination (Scenario 4, Event 5), a planned malfunction (RBCCW pump shaft shear) did not occur as expected due to an event trigger that was not present after the simulator was reset to the original stored snapshot IC. However, the event trigger was present during previous and subsequent resets. (Condition Report # CR 2005110706)
5. During the NRC simulator examination, two minor problems were noted in the base initial condition file associated with exam scenario 2. The overall impact to the examination was limited to a short delay (20 - 30 minutes) on Tuesday, November 1, 2005, at start the of simulator scenario 2, Crew 1. (Condition Report # CR 2005110707)
6. During the NRC simulator examination (Scenario 4, Event 9), simulator radiation levels unexpectedly rose to as high as 220 mr/hr in diagonals and 130" RB elevation after an Emergency Depressurization and subsequent low pressure ECCS injection. The impact to the overall examination was minimal since it occurred at the end of the scenario. (Condition Report # CR CR 2005110708)