



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

December 9, 2005

Tennessee Valley Authority
ATTN: Mr. Karl W. Singer
Chief Nuclear Officer and
Executive Vice President
6A Lookout Place
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801

SUBJECT: BROWNS FERRY NUCLEAR PLANT - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
05000259/2005301, 05000260/2005301, AND 05000296/2005301

Dear Mr. Singer:

During the period October 17 - 20, 2005, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating tests to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. At the conclusion of the operating tests, the examiners discussed the operating tests and preliminary findings with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examinations were administered by your staff on October 28, 2005.

Five Reactor Operator (RO) applicants and two Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the written examination and operating test. One RO applicant was administered only the written examination. The RO applicant passed the written examination. There were no post examination comments submitted.

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 By R. Aiello Acting For/

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

Docket Nos.: 50-259, 50-260, 50-296
License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Enclosure: (See page 2)

Enclosure: Report Details

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TVA

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket Nos.: 05000259, 05000260, 05000296

License Nos.: DPR-33, DPR-52, DPR-68

Report Nos.: 05000259/2005301, 05000260/2005301, and
05000296/2005301

Licensee: Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Facility: Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2 & 3

Location: 10833 Shaw RD
Athens, AL 35611

Dates: Operating Tests - October 17 - 20, 2005
Written Examination - October 28, 2005

Examiners: E. Lea, Senior Operations Engineer, RII
G. Hopper, Senior Operations Engineer, RII
T. McKernon, Senior Operations Engineer, RIV

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

Enclosure

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000259/2005301, 05000260/2005301, and 05000296/2005301; 10/17-28/2005; Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Units 1, 2, & 3; Licensed Operator Examinations.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period October 17 - 20, 2005. Members of the Browns Ferry training staff administered the written examinations on October 28, 2005. The written examinations were developed by the NRC and the operating tests were developed by the Browns Ferry training staff. Five Reactor Operators (RO) and two Senior Reactor Operators (SRO) passed both the operating test and written examination. The five RO applicants and one SRO applicant were issued operator licenses commensurate with the level of examinations administered. The second SRO applicant will be issued a license once the Browns Ferry training staff certifies, in writing, that the applicant has completed the experience requirement which was granted in a waiver. One RO applicant, who was administered only the written examination, passed the written examination. This applicant was granted a waiver to take the operating test at a later date.

No significant issues were identified.

Report Details

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Operator Licensing Initial Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC developed the written examinations and the Browns Ferry training staff developed the operating tests in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9. The NRC examination team reviewed the proposed operating tests and the members of the licensee's training staff reviewed the written examinations. 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 six RO and two SRO applicants who were being assessed under the guidelines specified in NUREG-1021. The examiners administered the operating tests during the period of October 17 - 20, 2005. Members of the Browns Ferry training staff administered the written examinations 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 Browns Ferry 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 ROs and two SROs passed both the operating test and written examination. One RO, who was administered only the written examination, passed the written examination. There were no post examination comments. The combined RO and SRO written examination, the answer key, and RO/SRO examination references may be accessed in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Numbers, ML053420532 and ML053420579).

The NRC examiners noted a generic weakness during the performance of a JPM. Specifically, while responding to an Off-Gas Post Treatment HI-HI-HI condition, four of the seven applicants failed to verify that an automatic action had not occurred. Simulator JPM "h", Respond to Off-Gas Post Treatment Radiation HI HI HI, required the applicant to determine that 2-FCV- 66-28 failed to close and take the necessary actions to close the valve. The licensee was notified of this weakness.

40A6 MeetingsExit Meeting Summary

On October 20, 2005, the examination team discussed generic issues with Mr. A. Elms, Nuclear Plant Operations Manager, 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

A. Elms, Operations Manager
T. Chinn, Operator Training
R. Knight, Operator Training
D. Langley, Site Licensing Manager
B. Marsh, Operations Superintendent
R. Moye, Operator Training
B. Scillian, Operations Training Manager
J. Wallace, Site Licensing Engineer