

Examination Challenges and Lessons Learned

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Discussion Goals

- Convey to Stakeholders the challenges examiners have experienced since the last exam writers conference.
- Present the positive aspects of the examination process the examiners have experienced.
- Solicit Feedback on how we can do our job better (more efficiently).

Challenges

- Examination Submittals being less than adequate.
- Appears that overall submittals are improving.
 - Some staff turnovers have contributed to submittals that were less than adequate.

Challenges

- Getting the final examination(s) (Operating test and Written examinations soon enough to get exam approved prior to the day of administration.)
- Exam Predictability

Exam Predictability

- Repeat exam questions outside of the last two exams. (10 questions from 3rd exam back)
- Repeat JPMs from 3rd exam back
- Complete repeat scenarios from one of the last two exams.

Exam Predictability

- The license applicants should not be able to predict or narrow the possible scope or content of the licensing examination based on the facility licensee's examination practices (other than those authorized by NUREG-1021 or in writing by the NRC). ES-201, Page 17 of 27

Written Examinations

- SRO Only guidance (Presentation by Bruno)
- Plausible Distractors/Operational Validity (Presentation by Ron and Sean)

Administrative JPMs

- JPM Validation (operations expectations/time)
- A-4 JPMs not being linked to the Emergency Plan

Walkthrough JPMs

- Validation (Operations expectations/time)
- Discriminating Tasks (one step JPMs)
- Safety Function determination

(Presentation on operating test requirements by Phil and Amanda)

Scenarios

- Verifiable Actions
- Streamline scenarios for time (goal is 90 min)
- T/S calls should be included in component/instrument malfunctions
- Intend to give 3 scenarios per day.
- Procedures used on simulator must be the same procedures used to validate.
- Validated

Scenarios

- Critical Tasks (when is task met?) (is it critical for this scenario?) (Presentation by Mark B/Phil.)
- Minimum number of malfunctions/tasks not being met, until after the major transient.
- Confusion about Normals/Reactivity manipulations replacing component/instrument failures.

Administration

- VPs signing of the 398, What does it mean?
 - Training program complete
 - Reactivity manipulations completed
 - Final determination is made that the individual is going to sit for the examination.
 - Waivers asked for any items not completed

(Presentation by Rick and Amanda)

Administration

- Examination Failures and Waivers
 - Waivers are not automatic, previous examination performance will be reviewed prior to granting a waiver.
 - Post Examination Comments

Positives

- Licensees starting exam development earlier.
- Some licensees are placing a shift SRO or RO on the exam development team.
- Staff work well with examiners, and are very professional.

Positives

- Many RII Licensees have welcomed, and seem comfortable with, the clarification provided regarding Tech Specs.
- Some increased (**Early**) communication between exam developers and chief examiner/NRC.

Communications

- Communicate early and often with Chief Examiner.
- Communicate with your management.
- If Chief is not available, or you have an issue that needs to be rectified, feel free to call the Branch Chief.



Your Thoughts?