



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

January 18, 2012

Michael Perito
Site Vice President Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT
05000416/2011301

Dear Mr. Perito:

On December 8, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The enclosed report documents the examination results and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination results were discussed on December 8, 2011, with yourself, and other members of your staff. A telephonic exit meeting was conducted on December 12, 2011, with Mr. Mark Pait, Operations Instructor, who was provided the NRC licensing decisions.

The examination included the evaluation of two applicants for reactor operator licenses and three applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses. The license examiners determined that all of the five applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued. There were no post examination comments submitted by your staff. The Enclosure contains details of this report.

No findings were identified during this examination.

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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark S. Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

M. Perito

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Docket: 50-416

License: NPF-29

Enclosure:

NRC Examination Report 05000416/2011301

cc w/enclosure:

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Regional Administrator (Elmo.Collins@nrc.gov)
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 Senior Resident Inspector (Rich.Smith@nrc.gov)
 Resident Inspector (Blake.Rice@nrc.gov)
 Branch Chief, DRP/C (Vincent.Gaddy@nrc.gov)
 Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C (Bob.Hagar@nrc.gov)
 Project Engineer, DRP/C (Rayomand.Kumana@nrc.gov)
 Project Engineer, DRP/C (Jonathan.Braisted@nrc.gov)
 GG Administrative Assistant (Alley.Farrell@nrc.gov)
 Public Affairs Officer (Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov)
 Public Affairs Officer (Lara.Uselding@nrc.gov)
 Project Manager (Alan.Wang@nrc.gov)
 Acting Branch Chief, DRS/TSB (Ryan.Alexander@nrc.gov)
 RITS Coordinator (Marisa.Herrera@nrc.gov)
 Regional Counsel (Karla.Fuller@nrc.gov)
 Congressional Affairs Officer (Jenny.Weil@nrc.gov)
 OEmail Resource
 RIV/ETA: OEDO (Mark.Franke@nrc.gov)
 DRS/TSB STA (Dale.Powers@nrc.gov)

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

Docket: 50-416

License: NPF-29

Report: 05000416/2011301

Licensee: Entergy Operations, Inc.

Facility: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

Location: Waterloo Road
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

Dates: December 5 to December 12, 2011

Inspectors: C. Steely, Chief Examiner
S. Garchow, Senior Operations Engineer
G. Apger, Operations Engineer

Approved By: Mark S. Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000416/2011301; December 5 to December 12, 2011; Grand Gulf Nuclear Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of two applicants for reactor operator licenses and three applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station.

The licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The written examination was administered by the licensee on December 2, 2011. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on December 5 to December 8, 2011.

The examiners determined that all of the five applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

None.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other Activities (Initial Operator License Examination)

.1 License Applications

a. Scope

NRC examiners reviewed all license applications submitted to ensure each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. Examiners also audited three of the license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the subject applicant's qualifications. This audit focused on the applicant's experience and on-the-job training, including control manipulations that provided significant reactivity changes.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.2 Examination Development

a. Scope

NRC examiners reviewed integrated examination outlines and draft examinations submitted by the licensee against the requirements of NUREG-1021. The NRC examination team conducted an onsite validation of the operating tests.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

NRC examiners provided outline, draft examination and post-validation comments to the licensee. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to examination administration.

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

.3 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Scope

On December 2, 2011, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all five applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on December 8, 2011.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all applicants on December 5 - 8, 2011.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

All applicants passed the written examination and all parts of the operating tests. The final written examinations and post examination analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment. There were no post examination comments as indicated in the licensee submittal.

The examination team noted the following generic weaknesses:

- Two of three instant senior reactor operator applicants had serious difficulty locating the valves that are necessary to manually vent the scram header.
- General weakness in applicant's ability to read wiring diagrams for tag out administration job performance measure.
- All instant senior reactor operator applicants exhibited weakness in manual risk assessment as noted in an administrative job performance measure.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

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

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed examination security for examination development during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with 10 CFR 55.49 and NUREG-1021. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

The chief examiner presented the preliminary examination results to Messrs. Michael Perito, Site Vice President, Jeremy Browning, General Manager Plant Operations, and other members of the staff on December 8, 2011. A telephonic exit was conducted on December 12, 2011 between Mr. Chris Steely, Chief Examiner, and Mr. Mark Pait, Operations Instructor.

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

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

Kane Ryder, Senior Operations Instructor
Mark Pait, Operations Instructor

NRC Personnel

Richard Smith, Senior Resident Inspector

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML120060179 - FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS
Accession No. ML120060225 - FINAL OPERATING TEST
Accession No. ML120060237 - POST EXAM ANALYSIS