



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 30, 2014

Mr. Kevin Davison
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 05000282/2014301;
05000306/2014301

Dear Mr. Davison:

On August 26, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the initial operator licensing examination process for license applicants employed at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the results of those examinations. Preliminary observations noted during the examination process were discussed on August 15, 2014, with you and other members of your staff. An exit meeting was conducted by telephone on August 26, 2014, between Mr. T. Ouret, General Superintendent, Operations Training, and Mr. M. Bielby, NRC Senior Operations Engineer, to review the proposed final grading of the written examination for the license applicants. The NRC confirmed the station submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination comments for consideration during NRC grading of the examination.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the weeks of August 4 and August 11, 2014. The written examination was administered by your Training Department personnel on August 15, 2014. Ten Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) and seven Reactor Operator (RO) applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on September 18, 2014. All 17 applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Nine applicants were issued Senior Operator licenses and seven were issued Operator Licenses. One Senior Operator license was withheld pending written certification, by you, that the applicant has completed all experience requirements. Three of the Senior Reactor Operator applicants were previously licensed Reactor Operators at the station.

The written examination will be withheld from public disclosure for 24 months per your request.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS).

K. Davison

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60

Enclosures:

1. Operator Licensing Exam Report (ER)
05000282/2014301; 05000306/2014301
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information
2. Simulation Facility Report

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket Nos.	50-282, 50-306
License Nos.	DPR-42, DPR-60
Report No:	05000282/2014301; 05000306/2014301
Licensee:	Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
Facility:	Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Location:	Welch, MN
Dates:	August 4 – 26, 2014
Inspectors:	M. Bielby, Senior Operations Engineer R. K. Walton, Senior Operations Engineer R. Baker, Operations Engineer
Approved by:	H. Peterson, Chief Operations Branch Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000282/2014301; 05000306/2014301; 8/04/2014 - 8/26/2014; Northern States Power Company, Minnesota; Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2; Initial License Examination Report.

The announced initial operator licensing examination was conducted by regional U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9-Supplement 1.

Examination Summary

Seventeen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Nine applicants were issued Senior Operator licenses and seven applicants were issued Operator licenses. One Senior Operator license was withheld pending written certification that the applicant has completed all experience requirements. (Section 4OA5.1)

REPORT DETAILS

4OA5 Other Activities

.1 Initial Licensing Examinations

a. Examination Scope

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners and members of the facility licensee's staff used the guidance prescribed in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1, to develop, validate, administer, and grade the written examination and operating test. Members of the facility licensee's staff prepared the outline and developed the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners validated the proposed examination during the week of July 14, 2014, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff. During the onsite validation week, the examiners audited two complete license applications and all application's eligibility requirements for accuracy. The NRC examiners, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff, administered the operating test, consisting of job performance measures (JPMs) and dynamic simulator scenarios, during the period of August 4 – 14, 2014. The facility licensee administered the written examination on August 15, 2014.

b. Findings

(1) Written Examination

The NRC examiners determined that the written examination, as proposed by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Less than 20 percent of the proposed examination questions were determined to be unsatisfactory, requiring modification or replacement. All changes made to the proposed examination were made in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and documented on Form ES-401-9, "Written Examination Review Worksheet," which is available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS.

On August 22, 2014, the licensee submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination comments for consideration by the NRC examiners when grading the written examination.

The NRC examiners graded the written examination and, on August 25, 2014, conducted a review of each missed question to determine the accuracy and validity of the examination questions.

(2) Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally proposed by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Changes made to the operating test, documented in a document titled, "Operating Test Comments," as well as the final as-administered dynamic simulator scenarios and JPMs, are available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of ADAMS.

The NRC examiners completed operating test grading on September 17, 2014.

(3) Examination Results

Ten applicants at the Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) level and seven applicants at the Reactor Operator (RO) level were administered written examinations and operating tests. All applicants passed all portions of their examinations. On September 18, 2014, nine applicants were issued Senior Operator licenses and seven applicants were issued Operator licenses. One Senior Operator license was withheld pending written certification that the applicant has completed all experience requirements.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination validation and administration to assure compliance with 10 CFR 55.49, "Integrity of Examinations and Tests." The examiners used the guidelines provided in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," to determine acceptability of the licensee's examination security activities.

b. Findings

No significant findings were identified. However, one minor incident was identified by the licensee during exam validation, following completion of examination validation activities for the day. During validation of an SRO administrative JPM, when an instructor made a copy of one page of the JPM, the copy jammed in the copier and had to be physically removed. Upon removal of the page from the copier, no further indications of an issue (error codes) were present. No additional copies were made on the machine prior to the end of the day's activities. Following release of the simulator from exam security, another instructor attempted to make a copy on the machine. When the copier did not make the copy, the instructor investigated and noted an additional paper tightly wedged inside the machine. When the wedged paper was removed and the machine closed, the machine started and correctly printed another copy of the SRO JPM page. The instructor determined that the material was most likely related to the exam validation that had just completed and gave the material to an instructor who was on the initial license training (ILT) examination security agreement. The instructor who was on the examination security agreement took possession of the material, and the instructor who found the material in the copy machine was put on the examination security agreement. Apparently, the copy machine attempted to produce an additional copy page of the original SRO JPM page when the first jammed page was removed, and then retained the jammed page without displaying an associated error code that the second page had also jammed. Training supervision evaluated the potential for an examination security material compromise and determined that at no time were the ILT candidates in the simulator and no other individuals had been in possession of the material after the machine jammed.

The licensee discussed the issue with the individuals involved and station management verified that the event did not result in any examination material compromise. The event was discussed with the NRC chief examiner. The examiners reviewed the incident and determined that there was no exam compromise and that the exam security incident was minor. The event was entered into the facility licensee's Corrective Action Program as Action Request (AR) 01438695.

4OA6 Management Meetings

.1 Debrief

The NRC examiners presented the examination team's preliminary observations on August 15, 2014, to Mr. K. Davison, Site Vice President, and other members of the licensee's staff.

.2 Exit Meeting Summary

Mr. M Bielby, NRC Senior Operations Engineer, conducted an exit meeting on August 26, 2014, with Mr. T. Ouret, General Superintendent, Operations Training, by telephone. The NRC's final disposition of the examination was discussed with Mr. Ouret during the telephone discussion. The examiners asked the licensee whether any of the material used to develop or administer the examination should be considered proprietary. No proprietary or sensitive information was identified during the examination or debrief/exit meetings.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

K. Davison, Site Vice President
S. Sharp, Director of Site Operations
C. Younie, Plant Manager
T. Allen, Assistant Plant Manager
J. Ruttar, Operations Director
Terry Bacon, Assistant Ops Manager
J. Anderson, Regulatory Affairs Manager
H. Butterworth, Nuclear Oversight Manager
Tim Borgen, Training Manager
T. Ouret, General Superintendent, Operations Training
P. Oleson, Regulatory Affairs Analyst
M. Markley, Performance Assessment

NRC

K. Stoedter, Senior Resident Inspector
M. Bielby, Senior Operations Engineer
R. K. Walton, Senior Operations Engineer
R. Baker, Operations Engineer

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

The following is a partial list of documents reviewed during the inspection. Inclusion on this list does not imply that the NRC inspectors reviewed the documents in their entirety, but rather that selected sections or portions of the documents were evaluated as part of the overall inspection effort. Inclusion of a document on this list does not imply NRC acceptance of the document or any part of it, unless this is stated in the body of the inspection report.

4OA5 Other Activities

AR 01438695; Exam Security Near Miss; July 17, 2014

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ADAMS	Agencywide Document Access and Management System
AR	Action Request
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
ILT	Initial License Training
JPM	Job Performance Measure
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records System
RO	Reactor Operator
SRO	Senior Reactor Operator

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

Facility Docket Nos: 50-282; 50-306

Operating Tests Administered: August 4 – 14, 2014

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
N34 Channel Selector Switch	During administration of the examination, the first time Scenario 1 was run, the switch position buffer was overflowed by a chattering switch position relay and the data for switch position changes performed was not available. Software engineers traced the problem to a pre-existing issue with the N34 Channel Selector Switch, documented in Simulator Work Order B4D-051. The issue was corrected for all subsequent runs of this scenario.
Meters 4190204, 4190205, & 4190206	D1 Phase Current meters indicate different current from phase to phase when D1 is supplying bus 15. Ammeters should read the same for all three phases. The licensee will investigate and correct as required, per Simulator Work Order B4D-081.

K. Davison

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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NAME	RKWalton for RBaker:bl	HPeterson		
DATE	09/30/14	09/30/14		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Kevin Davison from Hironori Peterson dated September 30, 2014

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 05000282/2014301;
05000306/2014301

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