



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

April 9, 2015

Mr. Eric McCartney
Site Vice President
NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, NRC INITIAL LICENSE
EXAMINATION REPORT 05000266/2015301; 05000301/2015301

Dear Mr. McCartney:

On March 6, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the initial operator licensing examination process for license applicants employed your Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 & 2. The enclosed report documents the results of those examinations. Preliminary observations noted during the examination process were discussed on March 3, 2015, with you and other members of your staff. An exit meeting was conducted by telephone on March 23, 2015, between Mr. J. Pierce, Interim Training Manager, of your staff, and Mr. D. McNeil, NRC Senior Operations Engineer, to review the proposed final grading of the written examination for the license applicants. During the telephone conversation, it was confirmed with Mr. Pierce, that the station had no post examination comments and the station requested the proposed and administered written examinations be withheld from public release until March 2017. The examinations will be withheld for 24 months per your request.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the weeks of February 23 and March 2, 2015. The written examination was administered by Point Beach Nuclear Plant Training Department personnel on March 4, 2015. Six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) and six Reactor Operator (RO) applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on March 30, 2015. All applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public

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inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management 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 Bruce Palagi Acting for/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-266; 50-301
License Nos. DPR-24; DPR-27

Enclosures:

1. Operator Licensing Exam Report (ER)
05000266/2015301; 05000301/2015301
w/Attachment: Supplemental Information
2. Simulation Facility Report

cc w/encls: Distribution via ListServ®
J. Pierce, Interim Training Manager

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket Nos: 50-266; 50-301
License Nos: DPR-24; DPR-27

Report No: 05000266/2015301; 05000301/2015301

Licensee: NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC

Facility: Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

Location: Two Rivers, WI

Dates: February 23, 2015 – March 6, 2015

Inspectors: D. McNeil, Senior Operations Engineer
M. Bielby, Senior Operations Engineer
T. Kolb, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: H. Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000266/2015301; 05000301/2015301; 02/23/2015 – 03/06/2015; NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC; Point Beach Nuclear 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

Twelve of twelve applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Six applicants were issued Senior Operator licenses and six applicants were issued Operator licenses. (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 January 26, 2015, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff. During the on-site validation week, the examiners audited twelve license applications 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 February 23, 2015, through March 3, 2015. The facility licensee administered the written examination on March 4, 2015.

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 and required modification or replacement.

All changes made to the proposed written 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 will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS).

On March 6, 2015, the licensee submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination comments for consideration by the NRC examiners when grading the written examination. The proposed written examination (ADAMS Accession Number ML15076A390), as well as the final as-administered examination and answer key (ADAMS Accession Number ML15077A231), will be available in 24 months electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS.

The NRC examiners graded the written examination on March 13, 2015, and 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 NRC's ADAMS.

The NRC examiners completed operating test grading on March 13, 2015.

(3) Examination Results

Six applicants at the SRO level and six applicants at the RO level were administered written examinations and operating tests. All applicants passed all portions of their examinations and were issued their respective operating licenses on March 30, 2015.

.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 Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 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 findings were identified.

4OA6 Management Meetings

.1 Debrief

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on March 3, 2015, to Mr. E. McCartney, Site Vice President, and other members of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Operations and Training Department staff.

.2 Exit Meeting

The chief examiner conducted an exit meeting on March 23, 2015, with Mr. J. Pierce, Interim Training Manager, Point Beach Nuclear Plant, by telephone. The NRC's final grading of the written examination and operating tests were disclosed and discussed with Mr. Pierce during the telephone discussion. The examiners asked Mr. Pierce whether any of the material used to develop or administer the examination should be considered proprietary. One test item was identified as proprietary information and will be withheld from the examination material released to the public. Mr. Pierce confirmed there were no post-examination comments.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

E. McCartney, Site Vice President
R. Amundson, Regulatory Exam Coordinator
D. DeBoer, Plant Manager
A. Gustafson, Operations Training Supervisor – Continuing
R. Hastings, Assistant Operations Manager – Training
J. Hinze, Lead Examination Author
T. Larson, Exam Project Operations Supervisor
J. Pierce, Plant Training Manager
E. Salzwedel, Operations Training Supervisor – Initial
E. Schultz, Operations Manager - Line

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

D. Oliver, Senior Resident Inspector
K. Barclay, Resident Inspector
D. McNeil, Chief Examiner
M. Bielby, Examiner
T. Kolb, Examiner

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 stated in the body of the inspection report.

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

| | |
|-------|---|
| ADAMS | Agencywide Documents Access and Management System |
| A/R | Action Request |
| CFR | <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> |
| JPM | Job Performance Measure |
| NRC | U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission |
| RO | Reactor Operator |
| SRO | Senior Reactor Operator |

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant

Facility Docket Nos: 50-266; 50-301

Operating Tests Administered: February 23 – March 3, 2015

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 |
|-------------|--|
| PPCS | During the conduct of the NRC operating test (dynamic simulator scenario), PPCS stopped communicating with the simulator control room terminals. This has been entered in the plant's Action Request Report system (A/R 02028305). The PPCS failure did not prevent completion of the examination. The applicants were told PPCS was unavailable and continued the scenario without PPCS. |
| C01 | During the conduct of the NRC operating test (dynamic simulator scenario), Control Room Bench-board C01 stopped communicating with the simulator computers. C01 was unresponsive to commands from the simulator computer. This has been entered in the plant's Action Request Report system (A/R 02027926). The C01 failure did not prevent completion of the examination. The applicants were removed from the simulator. The simulator was rebooted and placed in the same condition it was in when the C01 failure occurred. The applicants were brought back into the simulator control room, walked down the simulator and completed the scenario as written. |

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Sincerely,

/RA Bruce Palagi Acting for/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
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J. Pierce, Interim Training Manager

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