



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

July 15, 2015

Mr. Peter A. Gardner
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 05000263/2015301

Dear Mr. Gardner:

On June 19, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the initial operator licensing examination process for license applicants employed at your Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP). The enclosed report documents the results of those examinations. Preliminary observations noted during the examination process were discussed on June 10, 2015, with you and other members of your staff. An exit meeting was conducted by telephone on June 23, 2015, between Mr. T. Shortell, MNGP Training Manager, of your staff and Mr. D. McNeil, Senior Operator Licensing Examiner, to review the proposed final grading of the written examination for the license applicants. During the telephone conversation, the NRC verified with Mr. Shortell that the station had no post examination comments, as originally received by the NRC on June 19, 2015.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the weeks of June 1 and June 8, 2015. The written examination was administered by MNGP training department personnel on June 11, 2015. Seven Senior Reactor Operator and six Reactor Operator applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on June 30, 2015. All applicants passed all sections of the examination and were issued applicable operator licenses.

The written examination and the proposed written examination will be withheld from public disclosure for 24 months per Mr. Shortell's verbal request.

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 enclosures, 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/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Enclosures:

1. Operator Licensing Examination
Report 05000263/2015301
2. Simulation Facility Fidelity Report

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 50-263
License No: DPR-22

Report No: 05000263/2015301

Licensee: Northern States Power Company, Minnesota

Facility: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

Location: Monticello, MN

Dates: June 2 through June 19, 2015

Examiners: D. McNeil, Chief Examiner, RIII
M. Bielby, Examiner, RIII
L. Vick, Examiner, IOLB
J. Seymour, Examiner, RIII

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

SUMMARY

ER 05000263/2015301; 06/02/2015 - 06/19/2015; Northern States Power Company, Minnesota, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant; Initial License Examination Report.

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

Examination Summary

Thirteen of thirteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Seven applicants were issued senior operator licenses and six applicants were issued operator licenses. No applicants failed any section of the examination. (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 March 30, 2015, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff. During the on-site validation week, the examiners audited all of the 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 June 2, 2015, through June 9, 2015. The facility licensee administered the written examination on June 11, 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 is 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). (ADAMS Accession Number ML15175A057)

On June 19, 2015, the licensee submitted post-examination 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 ML15167A522), as well as the final as-administered written examination and answer key (ADAMS Accession Number ML15174A018), 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 June 25, 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. (ADAMS Accession Number ML15176A538)

The NRC examiners completed operating test grading on June 29, 2015.

(3) Examination Results

Seven applicants at the Senior Reactor Operator level and six applicants at the Reactor Operator level were administered written examinations and operating tests. All thirteen applicants passed all portions of their examinations and were issued their respective operating licenses.

.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 June 10, 2015, to Mr. P. Gardner, and other members of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Operations and Training Department staff.

.2 Exit Meeting

The chief examiner conducted an exit meeting on June 23, 2015, with Mr. T Shortell, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Training Manager, by telephone. The NRC confirmed there were no post-examination comments. The chief examiner asked Mr. Shortell 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

P. Gardner, Site Vice President
G. Allex, General Superintendent, Operations Training
R. Becker, Ops Instructor
H. Hansen Jr., Plant Manager
B. Koenig, Shift Manager
A. Kouba, Reg. Affairs
C. Peterson, ILT Supervisor
K. Scott, Director Site Operations
T. Shortell, Training Manager
S. Spillum, Supervisor, Operations Training
A. Ward, Manager, Reg. Affairs
T. Witschen, Operations Manager

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

P. Zurawski, Senior Resident Inspector
P. Voss, Resident Inspector
D. McNeil, Chief Examiner
M. Bielby, Examiner
L. Vick, Examiner
J. Seymour, Examiner

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ADAMS	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
JPM	Job Performance Measure
MNGP	Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records System

SIMULATION FACILITY FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

Facility Docket No: 50-263

Operating Tests Administered: June 2 – 9, 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
Voltmeter	During administration of a JPM to sync the main generator to the grid, a voltmeter used to sync the generator did not read as expected. (AR01482774)
Simulator	The simulator halted during a reset between JPMs. (AR01482777)
Feed Pumps	Feed pumps were started multiple times without reference to start requirements – may trip on high temperature in the plant. (AR01482780)

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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