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SUBJECT: Responds to potential training program weaknesses noted in Insp Rept 50-397/92-27. Corrective actions: requalification training program expertise will continue to be integrated in upcoming initial license campaign.

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November 19, 1992
G02-92-255

Docket No. 50-397

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: WNP-2, OPERATING LICENSE NPF-21
NRC INSPECTION OF FACILITY TRAINING
(REPORT No. 50-397/92-27)

The subject inspection was an evaluation of various aspects of facility training. While generally favorable, the inspection report noted three areas of potential training program weakness and requested that WNP 2 respond to these issues.

The first weakness concerned the lack of certification for the operations liaison staff person for the conduct of simulator performance evaluations. The primary function of the Operations Liaison is to provide operational experience and credibility to the evaluation process. He functions as a subject matter expert and as the operations management representative on the evaluation team. As an actively licensed and experienced Control Room Supervisor, he has both the technical and supervisory expertise to fulfill this function.

We therefore believe he is qualified as a peer to accurately assess the performance of crews or individuals against our standards and to provide meaningful feedback to the assessed licensed operators. Although this may be inconsistent with the qualification requirements of the remaining SRO certified only simulator instructors, this individual is monitored by a qualified instructor in all cases, consistent with the approved process for guest lecturers.

As an additional measure to improve our simulator training program, we are evaluating industry practice in this area, we will modify the operations liaison responsibility instruction (LTI 7.4) to formally define the necessary qualification level by March 1, 1993, and qualify the incumbent accordingly by July 1, 1993.

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The second weakness concerned the lack of a programmatic method to assure the instructor and evaluator skills developed in the requalification program are transferred into the initial licensed operator program. In actual practice, the requalification program supervisor and the operations liaison have spent time with the current initial licensed operator class in the role of guest instructor. Also, two instructors from the requalification program have been provided to evaluate the initial SRO certification class and initial license instructors have been involved in ongoing requalification training to a limited extent.


We intend to continue the integration of requalification training expertise in the upcoming initial license campaign. We will incorporate a formal means of assuring an ongoing sharing of skills and knowledge within our applicable instructions by March 1, 1993.

The final weakness concerned ineffective assessment of industry event training. We have a two year sample plan which is constantly updated. A primary function of this plan is to provide a record of the items which have had training conducted so they can be part of the examination process. Since industry event training is recorded on this sample plan, it is eligible as an examination item any time within the next two years. In addition, since only 80% of the items on any exam must be from the sampled population, 20% of an examination can be based on other items, such as a sampling of industry events which precede the sample period.

We are in the process of conducting an industry survey to compare our process enhancement ideas with other utility programs. When this comparison is complete, we will revise our internal processes to enhance the effectiveness of industry events training by July 1, 1993.

We appreciate your recognition of the progress we have made in our training programs and remain committed to continued program improvement. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Mr. Myron Baird, Supervisor, Licensed Operator Requalification Training, at (509) 377-8266.

Sincerely,


JW Parrish (Mail Drop 1023)
Assistant Managing Director, Operations

DRK/bk

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