



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

October 24, 2019

Mr. Tom Simril
Site Vice President
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC
Catawba Nuclear Station
4800 Concord Road
York, SC 29745

**SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION – NRC OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000413/2019301 AND 05000414/2019301**

Dear Mr. Simril:

During the period of September 9 – 12, 2019, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) administered operating tests to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Catawba Nuclear Station. At the conclusion of the tests, the examiners discussed preliminary findings related to the operating tests and the written examination submittal with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report. The written examination was administered by your staff on September 19, 2019.

Three Reactor Operator (RO) and six Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. There were no post-administration comments concerning the written examination or the operating test. A Simulator Fidelity Report is included in this report as Enclosure 2.

The initial examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. All examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and your staff were made according to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11.

In accordance with 10 CFR 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 (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at (the Public Electronic <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> Reading Room).

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (404) 997-4551.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gerald J. McCoy, Chief
Operations Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos: 50-413, 50-414
License Nos: NPF-35, NPF-52

Enclosures:

1. Report Details
2. Simulator Fidelity Report

SUBJECT: CATAWBA NUCLEAR STATION – NRC OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000413/2019301 AND 05000414/2019301 dated October 24, 2019

DISTRIBUTION:

F. Ehrhardt, RII
J. Worosilo, RII
M. Toth, RII
G. McCoy, RII
M. Bates, RII

*See previous page for concurrence

☒ PUBLICLY AVAILABLE

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☒ NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: ☒ Yes

ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML19297E229**

☒ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ☐ FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DRS	RII:DRS				
NAME	MBATES	GMCCOY				
DATE	10/ 18	10/ 24 /2019				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: G:\OLEXAMS\CATAWBA EXAMINATIONS\INITIAL EXAM 2019-301\CORRESPONDENCE\CATAWBA 2019-301 EXAM REPORT REV 0.DOCX

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Examination Report

Docket No.: 50-413, 50-414

License No.: NPF-35, NPF-52

Report No.: 05000413/2019301, 05000414/2019301

Enterprise Identifier: L-2019-OLL-0026

Licensee: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC

Facility: Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2

Location: York, SC 29745

Dates: Operating Test – September 9 – 12, 2019
Written Examination – September 19, 2019

Examiners: M. Bates, Chief Examiner, Senior Operations Engineer
J. Bundy, Operations Engineer
M. Donithan, Operations Engineer

Approved by: Gerald J. McCoy, Chief
Operations Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY

ER 05000413/2019301, 05000414/2019301; September 9 – 12, 2019 & September 19, 2019; Catawba Nuclear Station; Operator License Examinations.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners conducted an initial examination in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 11 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." This examination implemented the operator licensing requirements identified in 10 CFR §55.41, §55.43, and §55.45, as applicable.

Members of the Catawba Nuclear Station staff developed both the operating tests and the written examination. The initial operating test, written Reactor Operator (RO) examination, and written Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) examination submittals met the quality guidelines contained in NUREG-1021.

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period of September 9 – 12, 2019. Members of the Catawba Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on September 19, 2019. Three RO and six SRO applicants passed both the operating test and written examination. Nine applicants were issued licenses commensurate with the level of examination administered.

There were no post-examination comments.

No findings were identified.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

4OA5 Operator Licensing Examinations

a. Inspection Scope

The NRC evaluated the submitted operating test by combining the scenario events and Job Performance Measures (JPMs) in order to determine the percentage of submitted test items that required replacement or significant modification. The NRC also evaluated the submitted written examination questions (Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) questions considered separately) in order to determine the percentage of submitted questions that required replacement or significant modification, or that clearly did not conform with the intent of the approved knowledge and ability (K/A) statement. Any questions that were deleted during the grading process, or for which the answer key had to be changed, were also included in the count of unacceptable questions. The percentage of submitted test items that were unacceptable was compared to the acceptance criteria of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Standards for Power Reactors."

The NRC reviewed the licensee's examination security measures while preparing and administering the examinations in order to ensure compliance with 10 CFR §55.49, "Integrity of examinations and tests."

The NRC administered the operating tests during the period of September 9 – 12, 2019. The NRC examiners evaluated three RO and six SRO applicants using the guidelines contained in NUREG-1021. Members of the Catawba Nuclear Station training staff administered the written examination on September 19, 2019. Evaluations of applicants and reviews of associated documentation were performed to determine if the applicants, who applied for licenses to operate the Catawba Nuclear Station, met the requirements specified in 10 CFR Part 55, "Operators' Licenses."

The NRC evaluated the performance or fidelity of the simulation facility during the preparation and conduct of the operating tests.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

The NRC developed the written examination sample plan outline. Members of the Catawba Nuclear Station training staff developed both the operating tests and the written examination. All examination material was developed in accordance with the guidelines contained in Revision 11 of NUREG-1021. The NRC examination team reviewed the proposed examination. Examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were made per NUREG-1021 and incorporated into the final version of the examination materials.

The NRC determined, using NUREG-1021, that the licensee's initial examination submittal was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

Three RO applicant and six SRO applicants passed both the operating test and written examination and were issued licenses.

Copies of all individual examination reports were sent to the facility Training Manager for evaluation of weaknesses and determination of appropriate remedial training.

The licensee submitted no post-examination comments concerning the operating test or the written examination. A copy of the final written examination and answer key, with all changes incorporated, may be accessed not earlier than November 3, 2021, in the ADAMS system (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML19281E017 and ML19281E019).

4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

Exit Meeting Summary

On September 12, 2019, the NRC examination team discussed generic issues associated with the operating test with T. Simril, Site Vice President, and members of the Catawba Nuclear Station staff. The examiners asked the licensee if any of the examination material was proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

On October 18, 2019, the NRC examination team discussed the results of the examination with B. Webster, Operations Training Supervisor, via telephone.

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee personnel

T. Simril, Site Vice President
B. Leonard, Training Manager
B. Boyette, NRC Exam Developer
R. Miller, NRC exam developer
B. Webster, Initial License Training Supervisor

NRC personnel

J. Austin, Senior Resident Inspector

SIMULATOR FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Catawba Nuclear Station

Facility Docket No.: 50-413, 50-414

Operating Test Administered: September 9 – 12, 2019

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.11 are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

No simulator fidelity or configuration issues were identified.