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Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

F. A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

RECEIVED BY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OPERATOR LICENSING PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING THE GE NUCLEAR
TRAINING CENTER

The General Electric Company is constructing a Nuclear Training Center in Illinois which is intended to provide virtually all of the training requirements for their customer operating staffs in the future. This training will be provided, in large part, by utilizing a Dresden II reactor plant simulator.

We have had several discussions with GE during the past two years regarding the amount of credit that simulator training will receive under considerations of Part 55, e.g., to what degree, if any, will it substitute for "actual operating experience?" Resolution of this matter is needed now by both GE and their utility customers since staff training must be commenced several years before plant operation and in a manner compatible with Part 55 requirements.

After review and discussion with the Office of the General Counsel and the Divisions of Compliance and Reactor Standards, a proposed policy on the question of eligibility for "cold" reactor operator and senior reactor operator examinations was agreed upon to establish that the applicant has had extensive actual operating experience at a comparable reactor, as required by section 55.25(b). The applicant would, of course, be required to qualify under the other provisions of section 55.25.

Individuals from GE utility customers who formally complete the program at the GE Nuclear Training Center, using the Dresden II Simulator; would be considered qualified in accordance with section 55.25(b) for "cold" operator and senior operator license examinations at their own facility, provided that:

- (1) They have completed an appropriate course in Nuclear Technology fundamentals.
- (2) They have manipulated the controls of a nuclear reactor throughout ten (10) complete startups.

- (3) They have completed a minimum three-month assignment at an operating boiling water power reactor and have spent at least two months of this period observing the day-to-day operation of this plant as members of shift operating crews.
- (4) They have successfully completed an AEC administered operator examination for the Dresden II plant as described in sections 55.21 and 55.23, to include a walk-through oral examination in the Dresden II plant and manipulation of the Simulator controls for an operating test.

Requirement No. 4 is tentative and is subject to further consideration. The matter of whether or not the Commission administers examinations at the Training Center is, at this time, not of importance to GE and their customers for planning purposes.

It should be noted that these requirements are merely another alternative for establishing "gold" examination eligibility and therefore are within the framework of the existing Part 55 regulation. Further, an individual who fails to meet any one of these requirements is not automatically denied eligibility pursuant to 55.25(b).

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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April 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary
FROM: Nunzio J. Palladino *NJP*
SUBJECT: LICENSED REACTOR OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS

Attached is a copy of a memorandum that I sent to my fellow Commissioners on April 9, 1984. I orally requested that Commissioner Gilinsky defer his plan to send the OGC memorandum dated April 6, 1984 to a number of parties and applicants until the Commission had more time to research the background. However, he refused.

Since Commissioner Gilinsky insisted that his memorandum be served tonight, I want SECY to send this memorandum and its attachment along with his memorandum.

Attachment:
Memo to Comm fm NJP
dtd 4/9/84 w/attached
1967 document

cc: SECY
OGC
OPE
EDO



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

April 9, 1984

CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal

FROM: Nunzio J. Palladino *NJP*

SUBJECT: LICENSED REACTOR OPERATOR EXAMINATIONS

I have just received a copy of Commissioner Gilinsky's request to serve the April 6, 1984 OGC memo addressing licensed reactor operator examinations on the parties in a number of proceedings and on the applicants in uncontested cases. I believe this action should be deferred for a reasonable time to give the NRC time to research the background of the interpretation to be given to 10 CFR 55.25(b).

For example, the OGC memo does not address the attached 1967 interpretation, in which OGC concurred, which appears to conflict with the April 6, 1984 OGC position. There may be other pertinent background. I believe the Commission should address the issue rather than leaving the parties and applicants to guess which OGC interpretation is to be viewed as correct.

I also believe the Commission should give some indication to the parties and applicants what purpose is expected to be served by providing them this information.

Finally, since Commissioner Gilinsky has been on the Commission since 1975, I would like to know if he has any other background to contribute to the precedents that have been set by the staff, OGC, and Commission in this matter.

By copy of this memorandum, I would like OGC and EDO staff to research the above matter and provide any additional background or other information that is pertinent.

Attachment:
As stated

cc: SECY
OGC
OPE
EDO

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