

ENCLOSURE

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

Docket Nos.: 50-498, 50-499
License Nos.: NPF-76, NPF-80
Report No.: 50-498/96-19, 50-499/96-19
Licensee: Houston Lighting & Power Company
Facility: South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2
Location: FM 521 - 8 miles west of Wadsworth
Wadsworth, Texas
Dates: September 9-16, 1996
Inspector: Howard F. Bundy, Reactor Engineer
Approved By: Thomas O. McKernon, Acting Chief, Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Partial List of Persons Contacted
Attachment 2: Final Written Examination and Answer Key

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2
NRC Inspection Report 50-498/96-19; 50-499/96-19

This inspection evaluated the competency of a senior operator license applicant for issuance of an operating license at this dual unit facility.

Operations

- One applicant passed the written portion of the license examinations. Because he had previously passed the operating test portion of the license examination, that portion was waived. The applicant satisfied all requirements of 10 CFR 55.33(a)(2) and was issued a senior reactor operator license in accordance with 10 CFR 55.51 (Section 05.1).
- The licensee's remediation training program was effective in preparing the applicant for the retake written examination (Section 05.2c).

Report Details

I. Operations

05 Operator Training and Qualification

05.1 General Comments

The inspection assessed the eligibility and administrative and technical competency of an applicant for issuance of a license to operate and direct the operation of the reactivity controls of a commercial nuclear power facility in accordance with 10 CFR Part 55 and NUREG-1021, "Operator License Examiner Standards," Revision 7, Sections 200 (series), 300 (series), and 400 (series).

On September 16, 1996, an examination was administered to one applicant for a senior operator license. Because the applicant had previously passed the operating test portion of the examination, the operating test was waived. The applicant displayed the requisite knowledge and skills to satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR 55.33(a)(2) and was recommended to be issued a senior operator license in accordance with 10 CFR 55.51.

05.2 Written Examination

a. Inspection Scope

The written examination for one senior operator applicant was administered on site by the senior resident inspector on September 16, 1996.

b. Observations and Findings

The reference material provided by the facility was adequate to support development of the examination. The licensee was provided an opportunity to review the draft examination under security agreement on September 9, 1996. Licensee representatives provided several comments to improve the technical validity of the examination, as noted in Attachment 2. All licensee pre-examination comments were incorporated in the final examination.

The chief examiner graded the examination and performed a question analysis. As a result of this analysis the chief examiner determined that Question 70 required the applicant to recall information regarding decay heat generation obtained from a figure in a procedure from memory. Because an operator would normally be expected to obtain this information from the procedure rather than recall it from memory, this question was deleted. The applicant's final grade was 86.9 percent.

c. Conclusions

One applicant for a senior operator license passed a retake written examination. The licensee's remediation training program was effective in preparing the applicant for the retake written examination.

III. Engineering

E2 Engineering Support of Facilities & Equipment

E2.1 Review of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report Commitments

A recent discovery of a licensee operating their facility in a manner contrary to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report description highlighted the need for a special focused review that compares plant practices, procedures, and/or parameters to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report descriptions. While performing the inspection discussed in this report, the inspector reviewed the applicable portions of the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report that related to the areas inspected. The inspector verified that the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report wording was consistent with the observed plant practices, procedures, and/or parameters.

V. Management Meetings

X1 Exit Meeting Summary

The inspector presented the inspection results to Mr. Michael DeFrees during a telephone conference at the conclusion of the inspection on September 16, 1996. Mr. DeFrees acknowledged the findings presented.

The licensee did not identify as proprietary any information or materials examined during the inspection.

ATTACHMENT 1

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

LICENSEE

J. Calvert, Operations Training Division Manager
J. Carlin, Manager Nuclear Training
M. DeFrees, Lead Instructor, Licensed Operator Training
K. Struble, Instructor, Licensed Operator Training

NRC

D. Loveless, Senior Resident Inspector