

November 7, 1996

Mr. E. Kraft  
Site Vice President  
Quad Cities Station  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
22710 206th Avenue North  
Cordova, IL 61242

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION REPORTS NO. 50-254/96302;  
50-265/96302

Dear Mr. Kraft:

This refers to the NRC administered initial license examination conducted by Mr. D. McNeil and others on October 7-11, 1996. The examination was administered to employees of your company who had applied for a license to operate the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station (QCNPS), Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the examination process, generic observations were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Initial license examinations were administered to eight applicants, three at the Reactor Operator level and five at the Senior Reactor Operator level. One reactor operator applicant failed the written portion of his examination and was denied an operator's license. All other applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued reactor operator or senior reactor operator licenses.

Your staff generated the examination materials for NRC review and approval in accordance with the NRC initial examination pilot program. The examination material was considered adequate but needed some modifications to meet requirements of NUREG 1021, Operator Licensing Examiner Standards. Additional modifications were requested by the Chief Examiner to bring the difficulty level of the written examination into conformance with other examinations recently administered by the NRC. Suggestions for improving the development and administration of future examinations were discussed with operations training personnel.

During the development of the initial examination materials, QCNPS training department and contractor personnel signed an examination security agreement that states in part, that those who sign the agreement understand they will not participate in any instruction involving the applicants scheduled to be administered the license examination. One simulator hardware technician signed the examination security agreement and subsequently participated in a simulator training scenario as the simulator operator with some of the license applicants. Upon discovery of this condition, the QCNPS training department immediately notified the assigned NRC Chief Examiner and started an investigation. The investigation revealed that although the technician signed the security

9611250210 961107  
PDR ADOCK 05000254  
V PDR

11  
FE/2

November 7, 1996

agreement, he had not been exposed to any examination specific material, and further, that he had not provided any instruction to any of the candidates during the simulator training session. The investigation was thorough and prompt.

The assigned Chief Examiner accepted the results of the investigation and believed that no compromise of the examination occurred.

We are concerned with the recent history of examination security problems exhibited at Commonwealth Edison nuclear power plants and the impact this may have on public trust in the examination process, especially during this period of time when the NRC is attempting to improve the examination process by allowing facilities to develop initial license examinations. No response to this letter is required, but we clearly expect to find improved examination security as we continue the license examination process.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, with enclosures, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this examination, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Brent Clayton

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-254

Docket No. 50-265

- Enclosures: 1. Examination Reports No.  
50-254/96302(OL); 50-265/96302(OL)  
2. Simulation Facility Report  
3. Examination Weaknesses

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:DRS\QUA96302.OL

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box "C" = Copy w/o attach/encl "E" = Copy w/attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIII	RIII	RIII	N	RIII	E
NAME	DMcNeil/lc/jp <i>HNL</i>	MLeach <i>HNL</i>	PHiland <i>P2 H</i>		BClayton/GGrant	
DATE	11/5/96	11/5/96	11/5/96		11/7/96	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

November 7, 1996

cc w/encls: D. A. Sager, Vice President,  
Generation Support  
H. W. Keiser, Chief Nuclear  
Operating Officer  
L. W. Pearce, Station Manager  
N. Chrissotimos, Regulatory  
Assurance Supervisor  
C. C. Peterson, Regulatory Affairs  
Manager  
I. Johnson, Acting Nuclear  
Regulatory Services Manager  
Document Control Desk - Licensing  
Richard Hubbard  
Nathan Schloss, Economist,  
Office of the Attorney General  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission  
J. R. Bull, Vice President, General &  
Transmission, MidAmerican Energy Company

cc w/encls 1, 2, 3, 4: A. J. Chernick, Training Department

Distribution:

Docket File w/encls 1, 2, 3	A. B. Beach, RIII w/encls 1, 2, 3
PUBLIC IE-42 w/encls 1, 2, 3, 4	SRIs, Quad Cities,
Enf. Coordinator, RIII w/encls 1, 2, 3	Dresden, LaSalle w/encls 1, 2, 3
RIII PRR w/encls 1, 2, 3	OC/LFDCB w/encls 1, 2, 3
RAC1 w/encls (E-mail)	W. Axelson, RIII w/encls 1, 2, 3
DRP w/encls 1, 2, 3	CAA1 w/encls (E-mail)
DRS w/encls 1, 2, 3	LPM, NRR w/encls 1, 2, 3
M. A. Bies w/encls 1, 2, 3	