

Date of transcription September 19, 1984

Report of Interview

[REDACTED] Operator Licensing Section (OLS), Operations Branch (OB), Division of Reactor Safety (DRS), Region II, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was interviewed concerning his knowledge of the facts and circumstances related to discrepancies in the Reactor Operator (RO) and Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) licensing program at Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS). He provided the following information:

He was a member of the February 15-17, 1983, Region II Training Assessment Team at GGNS. At that point in time, the Assessment Team was unique because it was only the second one ever conducted by NRC. His observations as a member of that team were that the problems identified with the qualification cards for ROs and SROs were not as significant as the fact that Mississippi Power and Light (MP&L) was not effectively accomplishing a requalification program for licensed personnel at GGNS. In his opinion, this was serious because in some cases it had been a year since the operators had received their initial NRC license exam and, also because they had very limited experience at operating GGNS in other than a cold shutdown condition. However, the 10 CFR requirement allows one year to accomplish the requalification training and, at that point in time, the year had not yet expired since the issuance of the plant's operating license. He explained that the requirement stipulates that a requalification program be instituted within three months of the issuance of the plant operating license which in this instance had been issued in approximately June 1982. Therefore, the plant operating staff still had time to complete the requirements of 10 CFR 55A.

Sometime subsequent to the August 15-September 1, 1983, Operational Readiness Inspection at GGNS, he participated in discussions with [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Reactor Projects Branch, [REDACTED], OB, and possibly Albert F. Gibson, Chief, OB, DRS, concerning the readiness of GGNS licensed personnel to perform their duties in consideration of the anticipated startup of GGNS on September 25, 1983. During the discussion he had expressed concerns that perhaps the licensed operators at GGNS were not ready. However, he pointed out that at that time he "just did not know" and had speculated that more verification by Region II of the requalification training should be conducted in accordance with ES-601 (Examiner's Standard) of NUREG 1021. He noted in regard to his comments, that they were not intended to imply that the licensed operators were not ready to perform. He also noted that any further verification by Region II would have been in addition to the July through August 1983 NRC requalification exams administered at GGNS which exceeded the minimum requirement of ES-601.

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Investigation on September 13, 1984 at Atlanta, Georgia File # 84-35
by Mark E. Resner, ^{WKR} Investigator, OIA Date dictated September 19, 1984