



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 17, 1996

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|---------------------|----------|
| RELEASED TO THE PDR | |
| 12/23/96 | DKW |
| date | initials |

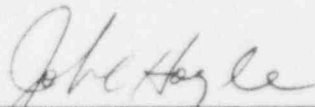
COMMISSION VOTING RECORD

DECISION ITEM: SECY-96-206

TITLE: RULEMAKING PLAN FOR AMENDMENTS TO 10
CFR PART 55 TO CHANGE LICENSED
OPERATOR EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

By a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Diaz disagreeing, the Commission approved the subject paper as recorded in the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) of December 17, 1996.

This Record contains a summary of voting on this matter together with the individual vote sheets, views and comments of the Chairman and Commissioners, and the SRM of December 17, 1996.



John C. Hoyle
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments:

1. Voting Summary
2. Commissioner Vote Sheets
3. Final SRM

CC: OGC
EDO
PDR
DCS
Commissioners

0/1 DKW

VOTING SUMMARY - SECY-96-206

RECORDED VOTES

| | APRVD | DISAPRVD | ABSTAIN | NOT PARTICIP | COMMENTS | DATE |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| CHRM. JACKSON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10/18/96 |
| COMR. ROGERS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10/9/96 |
| COMR. DICUS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10/31/96 |
| COMR. DIAZ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10/18/96 |
| COMR. MCGAFFIGAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 10/29/96 |

COMMENT RESOLUTION

In their vote sheets, Chairman Jackson and Commissioners Rogers, Dicus, and McGaffigan approved the staff's recommendation and provided comments for guidance to the staff in this matter.

Commissioner Diaz disapproved the proposed rulemaking plan and implementation of Revision 8 of NUREG-1021 on a voluntary basis. He believed that in the absence of significant cost savings, only an improvement in the protection of the health and safety of the public or workers would justify such an action and that such an improvement has not been demonstrated.

Subsequently, the comments of the majority of the Commission were incorporated into the guidance to staff as reflected in the SRM issued on December 17, 1996.

N O T A T I O N V O T E

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: John C. Hoyle, Secretary

FROM: CHAIRMAN JACKSON

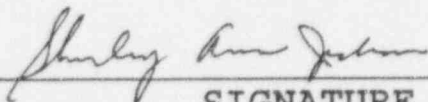
SUBJECT: SECY-96-206 - RULEMAKING PLAN FOR AMENDMENTS
TO 10 CFR PART 55 TO CHANGE LICENSED
OPERATOR EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Approved X with comments Disapproved Abstain

Not Participating Request Discussion

COMMENTS:

See attached comments.


SIGNATURE

Release Vote X

October 18, 1996

DATE

Withhold Vote

Entered on "AS" Yes X No

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS ON SECY-96-206

I concur with Commissioner Rogers' comments, with the following addition:

The staff should draft one initial licensing examination per region per year. This practice would ensure proficiency is maintained, aid in the training of new examiners, and would be useful as a quality check.

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: John C. Hoyle, Secretary

FROM: COMMISSIONER ROGERS

SUBJECT: SECY-96-206 - RULEMAKING PLAN FOR AMENDMENTS
TO 10 CFR PART 55 TO CHANGE LICENSED
OPERATOR EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Approved ^{* Subject *} comments _{KCH} Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____ Request Discussion _____

COMMENTS: SEE ATTACHMENT. _{KCH}

Kenneth C. Rogers
SIGNATURE

Release Vote ☒

October 9, 1996
DATE

Withhold Vote ☐

Entered on "AS" Yes ☒ No _____

Commissioner Rogers' Comments on Secy-96-206

I approve the staff's rulemaking plan which addresses development of a rule that would implement new procedures for the preparation and administration of the initial examinations for power reactor operators. I also approve permitting interim licensee implementation on, a voluntary basis, of the staff guidance on the preparation of licensing exams contained in NUREG-1021.

The quality of the results of the proposed revised examination process are very dependent upon the abilities of the NRC Chief Examiners to identify weak examinations and to work with facility licensees to maintain examination quality. Maintaining a high degree of examiner proficiency in these matters is of paramount importance. Therefore, adequate resources should be budgeted every year to ensure this result. The regular convening of operator licensing examiners training conferences and refresher training sessions, perhaps on an annual basis, planned by the staff can help to sustain and improve the examiners proficiencies in the relevant technical and communications skills.

The staff should provide the Commission with an annual update of experience with the new examination procedure.

KCR 10/9/96

NOTATION VOTE

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: John C. Hoyle
Secretary of the Commission

FROM: COMMISSIONER DICUS

SUBJECT: SECY-96-206, RULEMAKING PLAN FOR 10 CFR PART 55
TO CHANGE LICENSED OPERATOR EXAMINATION
REQUIREMENTS

Approved X W/COMMENTS Disapproved Abstain

Not Participating Request Discussion

COMMENTS:

I approve the staff proposal for full implementation of the new examination process on a voluntary basis with the issuance of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, and I approve the staff proposal to pursue rulemaking to require that power reactor facility licensees draft operator license examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021. However, I do have reservations which are similar to those expressed by Commissioner Diaz. If additional experience gained during the continuation of the voluntary program, together with the insights gained as a result of the rulemaking process suggest that this may not be the appropriate direction to take, the Commission would need to reconsider its position before approving any final rule changes. In either case, the ability of the staff to correctly monitor the process is of paramount importance and should be reflected appropriately in staff procedures.

I also concur with the comments of Commissioners Rogers and McGaffigan.


SIGNATURE

Release Vote / X /

October 31, 1996
DATE

Withhold Vote / /

Entered on "AS" Yes X No