



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION III  
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

July 29, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: James G. Keppler, Regional Administrator, Region III  
FROM: R. L. Spessard, Director, Division of Engineering  
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

As requested in your memo of June 28, 1983, attached is the first report of the Operator Licensing Section activities.

The report is divided into three sections:

Section A: Quarterly report of examinations administered by facility.  
Section B: Summary of quarterly activities by budget unit.  
Section C: Summary of fiscal year to date activities by budget unit.

By way of historical information, the pre-TMI passing rate for all types of examinations nationwide was approximately 90%. For the ten month period after May 1980, when the criteria for passing the NRC examination was changed, the passing rate fell to approximately 70%. In January of 1982, the NRC changed the format of the written examinations. The new reactor operator written exam contained five sections instead of the former eight parts and the new senior examination would also contain five parts instead of six sections. In addition, the point distribution among the sections was changed so that Sections 1 and 6 were to be 15% of the exam; Sections 2 and 7 were 10% and each of the other sections were 25% each. Because of the passing criteria, i.e., 80% overall and not less than 70% in any one section, Sections 1, 2, 6, and 7 were contributing somewhat more to the failure rates than was warranted. This did account for some of the higher than usual failure rates during the past year. The exam format was changed again in May 1983 to four sections in each exam and with each section worth 25%. Since that time, the passing rate nationwide has increased to about 80%.

You will note unusually low passing rates for D. C. Cook, Palisades, Quad Cities, Byron, LaSalle, and Point Beach. In some cases, i.e., Point Beach and Quad Cities, the sample size is too small to be a meaningful indication of the quality of the training program. In other cases, i.e., Palisades and LaSalle, changes were made in the training organizations during the past year that may have had an effect on the exam results. We have discussed the results of the exams with personnel from these facilities as well as the others with low passing rates in order to assist them in taking action to improve their training programs.

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We have included in Sections B and C of the report the number of renewal applications received and the renewal licenses issued. This is not a decision unit in the budget but does represent an administrative burden since all information associated with these applications must be entered in the Operator Licensing Tracking System (OLTS).



R. L. Spessard, Director  
Division of Engineering

Attachments: As stated

## Section A

SRO and RO Examination Report 3rd Quarter FY 83

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>TYPE OF EXAM</u>	<u>NO. EXAMS</u>	<u>NO. PASSED</u>	<u>% PASSED</u>
Duane Arnold	RO	6	6	100%
	SRO	2	2	100%
Donald C. Cook	RO	15	6	40%
	SRO	6	5	83%
Palisades	RO	5	3	60%
	SRO	5	3	60%
Zion	RO	4	4	100%
	SRO	8	7	87%
Quad Cities	SRO	3	1	33%
La Crosse	RO	5	5	100%
	SRO	5	5	100%
Byron	RO	25	11	44%
	SRO	34	14	41%
Monticello	SRO	4	3	75%
LaSalle	RO	4	3	75%
	SRO	7	4	57%
Dresden	RO	4	3	75%
	SRO	2	2	100%
Point Beach	SRO	2	1	50%
	Requal	2	2	100%
Davis-Besse	SRO	4	4	100%
Fermi	RO	8	7	87%
	SRO	15	15	100%
University of Illinois	RO	2	2	100%
G. E. Training Center	Instructors	6	6	100%
Westinghouse Training Center	Instructors	6	6	100%

## Section B

### Summary of Examinations Administered 3rd Quarter FY 83

<u>TYPE OF EXAM</u>	SRO		<u>% PASSED</u>	RO		<u>% PASSED</u>
	<u>NO.</u>	<u>PASSED</u>		<u>NO.</u>	<u>PASSED</u>	
Initial	49	29	59%	33	18	54%
Replacement	48	37	77%	43	30	69%
Requalification	2	2	100%	--	--	
Instructor Certification	12	12	100%	N/A	N/A	
Nonpower	--	--	----	2	2	100%
Renewals*	41	26		15	16	

## Section C

### Summary of FY 83 to Date

<u>TYPE OF EXAM</u>	SRO		<u>% PASSED</u>	RO		<u>% PASSED</u>
	<u>NO.</u>	<u>PASSED</u>		<u>NO.</u>	<u>PASSED</u>	
Initial	49	14 <sup>29</sup>	28%	33	19 <sup>18</sup>	57%
Replacement	104	75	72%	90	58	64%
Requalification	2	2	100%	--	--	
Instructor Certification	21	17	80%	N/A	N/A	
Nonpower	3	2	66%	2	2	100%
Renewals*	114	133		61	58	

\*Renewals are not a budget unit and numbers represent applications received and licenses issued.