



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

November 27, 1996

Mr. Robert Heublein, Manager  
Training Activities Department  
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations  
700 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

Dear Mr. Heublein:

The October 9th, 1996 Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFE) was administered to 179 candidates at 24 facilities. The examination operated smoothly and without incident. Of possible interest to you was the larger than normal number of candidates that were withdrawn from this test administration during the last several days leading up to the exam. Although facilities had originally registered 205 candidates to take the exam, there were 26 late withdrawals reducing the final group to 179. By contrast, there are usually no more than five to seven candidate withdrawals on any given examination.

The October examination summary statistical results are as follows:

	<u>BWR</u>	<u>PVWR</u>
Number of examinees	55	124
Number of failures	2	11
Mean score	90.9	87.3
High score	100	98
Low score	74.7	72
Number of facilities	8	16
Number of comments	2 (2 questions)	30 (10 questions)
Facility Failures	79.00 Fitzpatrick 74.00 Pilgrim	79.00 Catawba 78.00 77.00 McGuire 78.00 Sequoyah 74.00 79.00 St. Lucie 72.00 78.00 Surry 79.00 South Texas 79.00 Wolf Creek 79.00 Zion

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In summary, overall examination difficulty level (e.g., mean score) is acceptable and expected in a criterion-referenced examination of this type. As in previous exams since February 1992, this exam was developed using the merged INPO/NRC test bank from your catalogs. Overall, we believe this exam was a good product and a valid measure of generic fundamental knowledge.

#### Facility Comments and Answer Key Changes

Two BWR facilities made comments on items 54 and 82, contending that each item had two correct answers. Based upon our analysis, we concluded that there was only one correct answer to each of the questions. However, one facility contended that item 82 required a high level of operator plant knowledge. Upon further analysis, we concurred that, indeed, there was a higher level of plant knowledge required, but not expected, of a GFE candidate to answer the question. This fact made the item invalid for GFE use and consequently, item 82 was eliminated from the October 9th examination and from the GFE examination bank.

The above BWR item (82, Form A) will be deleted from the NRC examination bank. Accordingly, that item has also been deleted from the BWR hard copy and computer diskette enclosures to this letter so as not to be entered into the BWR examination catalog bank in your annual catalog updates.

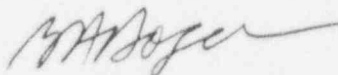
The PWR examination received 30 facility comments on 10 items. Based upon our analysis of those comments, we agreed that two items--42 and 55--be adjusted to accept two correct answers. No answer key changes were deemed necessary to the remaining 8 items.

Accordingly, the PWR items (#42 and #45, Form A) will be deleted from the NRC examination bank. Those items have also been deleted from the PWR hard copy and computer diskette enclosures to this letter so as not to be entered into the PWR examination catalog bank in your annual catalog updates.

As we have routinely done, we are enclosing both BWR and PWR hard copies of the exam as well as a floppy diskette which contains the contents of this examination along with its associated catalog input data needed for updating your catalogs.

If you have any questions, please contact George M. Usova at (301) 415-1064.

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Boger, Director  
Division of Reactor Controls  
and Human Factors  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures: As stated

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