



March 10, 1988

POLICY ISSUE

SECY-88-75

For: The Commissioners (Information)

From: Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

Subject: RESULTS OF OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATIONS AND
REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM EVALUATIONS FOR FISCAL
YEARS 1986 AND 1987

Purpose: To provide the Commission the annual summary of examination,
licensing and requalification activities for Reactor Operators
and Senior Reactor Operators. The last such annual summary
was provided by SECY-87-2.

Discussion: The enclosed graphs and tables report national operator
licensing results and regional requalification program
evaluation results for FY 1986 and FY 1987.

There was some improvement in candidate performance between
FY 1986 and FY 1987. This improvement could be the result
of a number of factors, such as better training, better
license screening or improved job related candidate testing.
Since our last report, the simulator and oral portions of the
operating test have been combined and are being reported as
one component. The examination results, broken down by license
type and examination component, for FY 1986 and FY 1987, are
presented in Enclosure 1.

FY 1987 examination results for each region are presented in
Enclosure 2. Generally, the pass rates of all regions were
consistent. The largest deviation was the pass rate on the
Reactor Operator written examination, which ranged from 77
percent to 93 percent. However, evaluation of specific data
among the five regions indicates no consistent trend for any
individual region for any aspect of the examination process
or trends between FY 1986 and FY 1987. As part of our
oversight function, we will continue to evaluate examination
results for trends and inconsistencies among the regions.

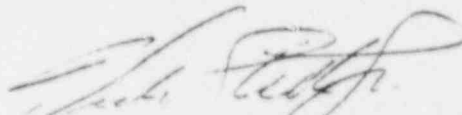
During FY 1987, the regions participated in phase II of the
pilot program as an alternative approach to requalification
examinations. Thirteen facilities were evaluated.

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Also, during this period, requalification programs at twenty-five facilities were evaluated in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards." As of the end of FY 1987, twelve programs were satisfactory, five were marginally acceptable and eight were unsatisfactory. Included in these results are two facilities which used the pilot program approach as a follow-up means of program evaluation. Facility program results, by region, are presented in Enclosure 3.

NRC requalification examinations administered in accordance with ES-601, Revision 4 of NUREG-1021, were suspended on September 11, 1987, because of concerns about adverse impact on licensed operators and the potential for degraded plant safety as a result. Revised requirements and procedures for requalification examinations were developed based on a discussion provided to the Commission by SECY-87-262. The NRC administered requalification examinations to two crews of licensed personnel during the week of December 14, 1987, at the H. B. Robinson nuclear power plant using the revised approach. The report on the results of this examination was issued on January 12, 1988. The next NRC requalification examination, using the revised approach, will be administered at a non-plant specific simulator facility (Ft. Calhoun) in March 1988. The NRC requalification examination program is currently expected to fully resume by the end of FY-88.



Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. Examination Results,
FY 1986 and FY 1987
2. Examination Results, Regions I
through V, FY 1987
3. Requalification Program
Evaluations, by Region

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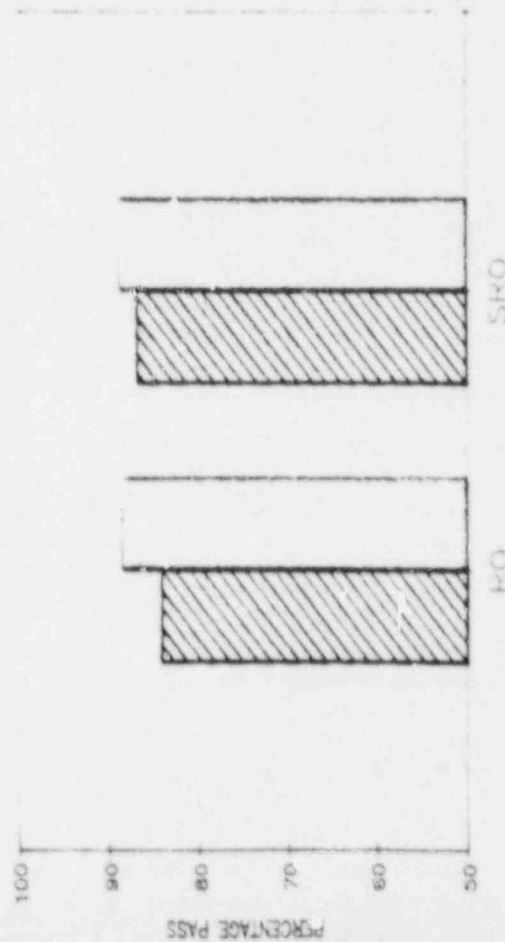
ENCLOSURE (1)

EXAMINATION RESULTS, FY 1986 AND FY 1987

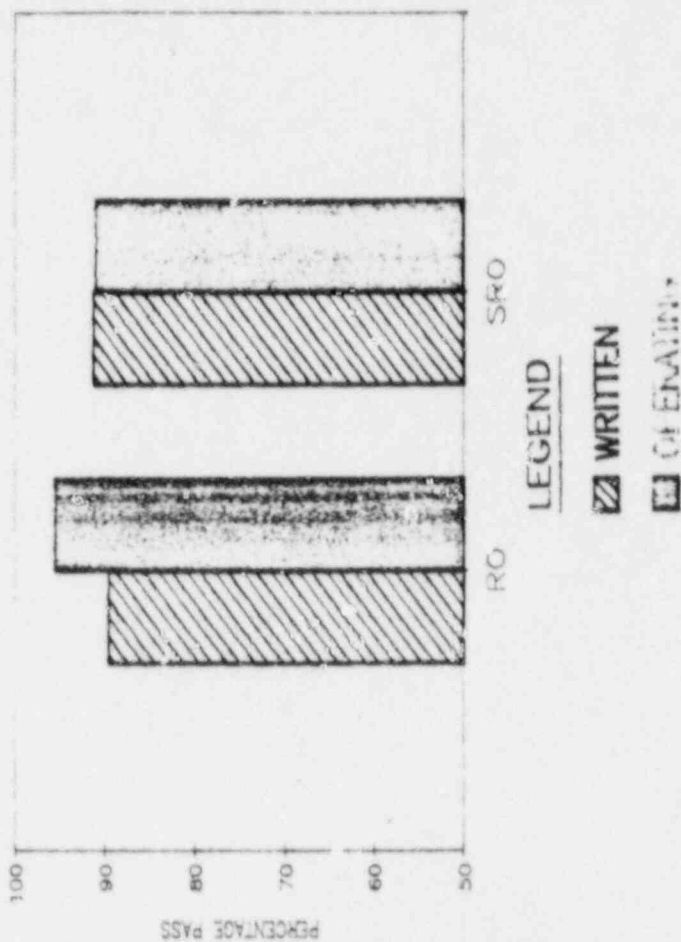
EXAMINATION RESULTS

PERCENTAGE PASS VERSUS EXAM TYPE
ALL REGIONS

FISCAL YEAR 1986



FISCAL YEAR 1987



LEGEND

WRITTEN

ORAL

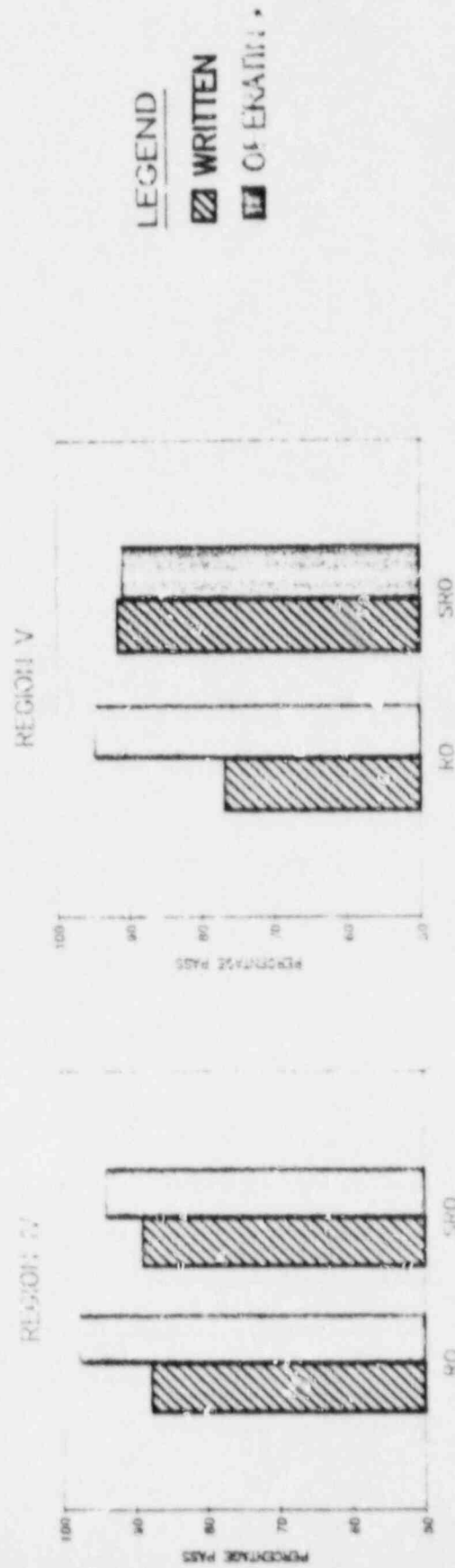
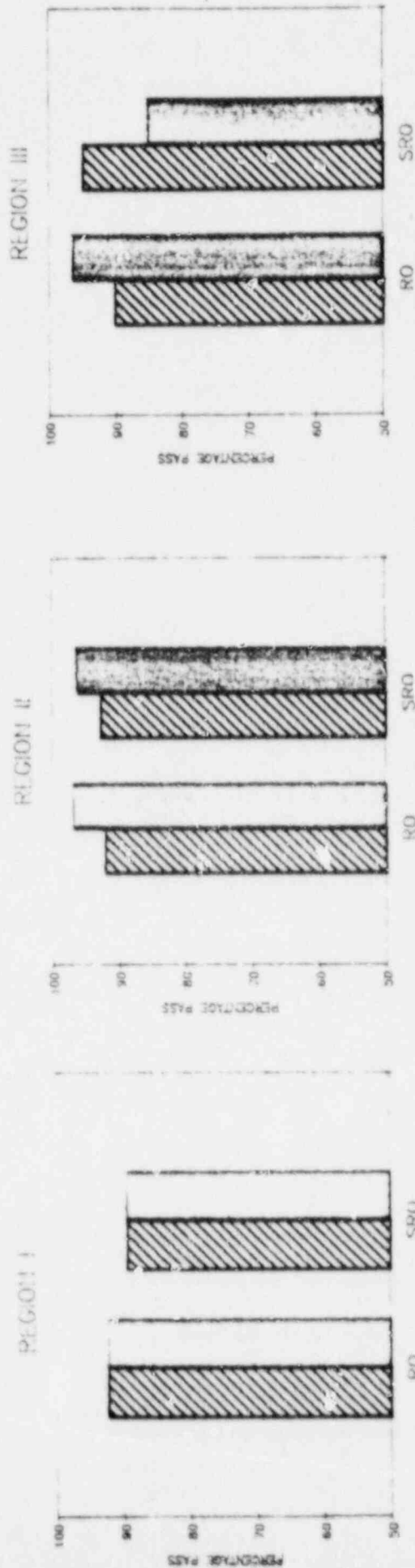
ENCLOSURE (2)

EXAMINATION RESULTS, REGIONS I THROUGH V, FY 1987

EXAMINATION RESULTS

PERCENTAGE PASS VERSUS EXAM TYPE

11 JAN 1987



ENCLOSURE (3)

REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM EVALUATIONS, BY REGION

REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

During FY 1987, twenty-five facilities were evaluated in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards." In addition, phase II of the pilot program on requalification examinations (SECY-87-142) at thirteen facilities was conducted to allow for further assessment of the feasibility of evaluating requalification programs by reviewing and auditing facility-administered written examinations and operating tests.

The Examiner Standards require that NRC-prepared, written examinations and operating tests be administered to 20 percent of licensed operators and senior operators. (Revision 4 of this Standard, dated May 26, 1987, placed the minimum sample size at twelve operators.) For these twenty-five facilities, determinations of satisfactory, marginal, or unsatisfactory were made in accordance with the Examiner Standards. The results for the twenty-five programs evaluated in accordance with the Examiner Standards and the thirteen programs evaluated in accordance with the pilot program were twenty-three satisfactory, six marginal, and nine unsatisfactory programs.

REGION I
REQUALIFICATION EVALUATIONS FY 1987

FACILITIES EVALUATED

RESULTS

Reaver Valley 1

Unsatisfactory

Fitzpatrick

Marginal

Salem 1/2

Unsatisfactory

PILOT PROGRAM

Haddam Neck

Satisfactory

Indian Point 2

Satisfactory

Millstone 2

Satisfactory

Pilgrim

Satisfactory

Shoreham

Satisfactory

Three Mile Island 1

Satisfactory

REGION II
REQUALIFICATION EVALUATIONS FY 1987

<u>FACILITIES EVALUATED</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
Browns Ferry	Unsatisfactory
Crystal River	Satisfactory*
Farley	Satisfactory
Grand Gulf	Marginal
Oconee	Satisfactory
Sequoyah	Marginal
Turkey Point	Unsatisfactory

*Determined using pilot program approach as follow-up. Initial evaluation was marginal.

REGION III

REQUALIFICATION EVALUATIONS FY 1987

FACILITIES EVALUATED

RESULTS

D. C. Cook

Unsatisfactory

Dresden

Unsatisfactory

Duane Arnold

Satisfactory

LaCrosse

Satisfactory

LaSalle

Satisfactory

Palisades

Satisfactory

Prairie Island

Unsatisfactory

Quad Cities

Marginal

Zion

Satisfactory

PILOT PROGRAM

Byron

Unsatisfactory

Point Beach

Satisfactory

REGION IV
REQUALIFICATION EVALUATIONS FY 1987

FACILITIES EVALUATED

RESULTS

Comanche Peak

Marginal

Fort Calhoun

Unsatisfactory

River Bend

Satisfactory

PILOT PROGRAM

Arkansas Nuclear One 2

Satisfactory

Fort St. Vrain

Marginal

Wolf Creek

Satisfactory

REGION V
REQUALIFICATION EVALUATIONS FY 1987

<u>FACILITIES EVALUATED</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
Palo Verde	Satisfactory*
Rancho Seco	Satisfactory
San Onofre 1	Satisfactory
 <u>PILOT PROGRAM</u>	
Diablo Canyon	Satisfactory
WNP-2	Satisfactory

*Determined using pilot program approach as follow-up. Initial evaluation was marginal.



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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

April 4, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Elizabeth C. Shelburne, Chief
Public Document Room Branch

Sandra M. Shores, Chief
Correspondence and Records Branch

FROM: Andrew L. Bates, Chief
Operations Branch

SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF SECY PAPER

Attached for your use is a copy of SECY-88-75, "Results of Operator Licensing Examinations and Regualification Program Evaluations for Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987," which should be placed in your files and made available to the public.

Request for release was made by OCA (Tom Combs) and concurred by OGC, EDC and all Commissioner offices.

Attachment:
As Stated

Copy: DCS - 016 Phillips