



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

August 17, 2021

Mr. David Rhoades
Senior VP, Exelon Generation Company, LLC
President and CNO, Exelon Nuclear
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

**SUBJECT: BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2—CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE
EXAMINATION**

Dear Mr. Rhoades:

In a telephone conversation on August 11, 2021, between Mr. J. Beard, Senior Operations Training Instructor, and Mr. R. Baker, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at the Braidwood Station during the weeks of February 28 and March 7, 2022. In addition, the NRC staff will make an examination validation visit to the facility during the week of January 31, 2022.

As agreed upon during the telephone conversation, the staff of the NRC will prepare both the written examination and the operating test, to include the outlines for the job performance measures (JPMs) and dynamic scenarios, based on the guidelines in Revision 11 to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered. Your staff will be given the opportunity to perform a final review of the examinations during the week of January 3, 2022.

To meet the above schedule, your staff has furnished the reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201, however additional requests may be made as examination development progresses. The outline for the written examination was provided to your staff for review and comment on July 30, 2021, and feedback on the written examination outline was received by the NRC on August 11, 2021. The operating test outlines for the JPMs and the required dynamic scenarios will be available for your staff's review and comment by August 20, 2021. Feedback on the operating test outlines, by your staff will be due by August 27, 2021. The NRC prepared written examination will be provided to your staff for review and comment by November 22, 2021. To ensure the development of quality simulator examination scenarios, the NRC will visit your facility during the week of December 13, 2021, to pre-validate the events/malfunctions constructed from the operating test outlines, and to obtain feedback from your staff regarding scenario validity and capabilities of the simulator to support event performance. The NRC prepared operating test will be provided to your staff for review and comment by December 27, 2021. All materials shall be complete and ready to use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or Safeguards Information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be canceled or rescheduled.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests, along with any video and audio recordings of the dynamic operating tests, until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

Appendix E to NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. R. Baker to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB Control Number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB Control Number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the preliminary applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests call for at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualifications Statement–Licensee," or as directed by Mr. R. Baker when contacting him to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 400 hours per examination or response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collections. You may submit comments on any aspect of the information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to Freedom of Information Act, Privacy and Information Collections Branch (T-5F53),

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by electronic mail to infocollects.resource@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the document requesting or requiring the collection displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

This letter will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. J. Beard has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. R. Baker at 630-859-9871 or me at 630-829-9868.

Sincerely,



Signed by Pelke, Patricia
on 08/17/21

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-456; 50-457
License No. NPF-72; NPF-77

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C. Rocha, Site Training Manager

Letter to David Rhoades from Patricia J. Pelke dated August 17, 2021.

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