



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-1415

February 2, 2011

Mr. Michael Colomb
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
185 Old Ferry Road
P.O. Box 500
Brattleboro, VT 05302-0500

SUBJECT: VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER STATION- NRC EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000271/2010301

Dear Mr. Colomb:

On December 17, 2010, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an examination at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on January 6, 2011, with Mr. Scott Rua and Mr. Jim Paradis of your staff.

The examination included the evaluation of five applicants for reactor operator licenses, four applicants for instant senior operator licenses, and two applicants for upgrade senior operator licenses. The written and operating examinations were developed using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The license examiners determined that all 11 applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses were issued on January 6, 2011.

No findings were identified during this examination.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel L. Hansell, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Samuel L. Hansell, Jr., Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

February 2, 2011

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel L. Hansell, Jr., Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUNSI Review Complete: SLH (Reviewer's Initials)

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| NAME | D'Antonio/SLH | Hansell | | | | | | | |
| DATE | 2/1/11 | 2/1/11 | | | | | | | |

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M. Colomb

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Enclosure: NRC Examination Report 05000271/2010301

Docket No. 50-271
License No. DPR-28

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Joseph D'Antonio, Chief Examiner, DRS

DRS Master Exam File (C. Bixler) (w/concurrences)

DRS File

EXAMINATION REPORT

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I**

Dockets: 50-271
Licenses: DPR-28
Report : 05000271/2010301
Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Facility: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
Location: Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station
P.O. Box 250
Governor Hunt Rd
Vernon, VT 05354
Dates: November 29, 2010 – December 17, 2010 (exam administration)
January 6, 2011 (completion of exam grading)
Inspectors: Joseph D'Antonio, Chief Examiner
Samuel Hansell, Jr., Branch Chief, Operations Branch
David Molteni, Operations Engineer
Joyce Tomlinson, Operations Engineer
Approved By: Samuel L. Hansell, Jr., Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000271/2010301; November 29 - December 17, 2010; Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of five applicants for reactor operator licenses, four applicants for instant senior operator licenses, and two applicants for upgrade senior operator licenses at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The facility licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. The written examination was administered by the facility on December 17, 2010. NRC examiners administered the operating tests on November 29 - December 3, 2010. The license examiners determined that all eleven applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

None.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

REPORT DETAILS

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

4OA5 Other Activities (Initial Operator License Examination)

.1 License Applications

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed all 11 license applications submitted by the licensee to ensure the applications reflected that each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. The applications were submitted on NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualification Statement," and NRC Form 396, "Certification of Medical Examination by Facility Licensee." The examiners also audited all of the license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the subject applicants' qualifications. This audit focused on the applicants' experience and on-the-job training, including control manipulations that provided significant reactivity changes.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.2 Operator Knowledge and Performance

a. Scope

On December 17, 2010, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all 11 applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on December 22, 2010.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating examination to all 11 applicants on November 29 - December 3, 2010. The four applicants for reactor operator licenses participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, in a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of 11 system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of four administrative tasks. The four applicants seeking an instant senior operator license participated in three dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks. The two applicants for upgrade senior operator licenses participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of five system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks.

Enclosure

b. Findings

All applicants passed all parts of the operating test. For the written examinations, the reactor operator applicants' average score was 91.73 percent and ranged from 88 to 96 percent, the senior operator applicants' average score was 92 percent and ranged from 87 to 95 percent. The overall written examination average was 91.88 percent. The text of the examination questions, the licensee's examination analysis, and the licensee's post-examination comments may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment.

The NRC examiners completed the final grading of the written examination on December 17, 2010, and conducted a review of each missed question to determine the accuracy and validity of the examination questions. In accordance with current NRC policy the release of this written examination will be delayed for two years. The examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession number noted in Attachment 1.

Chapter ES-403 and Form ES-403-1 of NUREG 1021 require the licensee to analyze the validity of any written examination questions that were missed by half or more of the applicants. The licensee conducted this performance analysis for those questions that met this criterion and submitted the analysis to the chief examiner. No post exam changes were recommended.

3. Initial Licensing Examination Development

a. Scope

The facility licensee developed the examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 9, Supplement 1. All licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination preparation and validation were listed on a security agreement. The facility licensee submitted both the written and operating examination outlines on August 24, 2010. The chief examiner reviewed the outlines against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee. The facility licensee submitted the draft examination package on October 6, 2010. The chief examiner reviewed the draft examination package against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 9, Supplement 1, and provided comments to the licensee on the examination on October 13, 2010. The NRC conducted an onsite validation of the operating examinations and provided further comments during the week of November 1, 2010. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to administration of the examinations.

b. Findings

The NRC approved the initial examination outline and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

The examiners determined that the written and operating examinations initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

No findings were identified.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The examiners observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security for examination development and during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with NUREG-1021 requirements. Plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

40A6 Meetings, Including Exit

The chief examiner presented observations concerning the development and administrations of the examinations to Mr. Kevin Stupak, Manager Training and Development, and other members of the licensee's management staff in an outbrief meeting on December 3, 2010. The licensee acknowledged the comments presented. Final exam results and license numbers were presented to Mr. Jim Paradis, Superintendent of Initial Operator Training Programs, and Mr. Scott Rua, Sr. Operations Instructor, in a telephone exit meeting on January 6, 2011.

The licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Enclosure

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

Kevin Stupak, Manager Training and Development
Jim Paradis, Superintendent of Initial Operator Training Programs
Scott Rua, Sr. Operations Instructor

NRC Personnel

Joseph D'Antonio, Chief Examiner

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

NONE

Opened and Closed

NONE

Closed

NONE

Discussed

NONE

ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Accession No. ML110200243 – FINAL-Written Exam
Accession No. ML110200260 – FINAL-Operating Exam

ES-501**Simulator Fidelity Report****Attachment 2**

Facility Licensee: Vermont YankeeFacility Docket No.: 50-271Operating Test Administered on: 11/29/2010

This form is to be used only to report observations. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and, without further verification and review in accordance with IP 71111.11, are not indicative of noncompliance with 10 CFR 55.46. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

While conducting the simulator portion of the operating tests, examiners observed the following items:

| Item | Description |
|------|--|
| 1 | Rod insertion with one CRD pump seemed fast. DR 10-0092. |
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