

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

October 12, 1982

To: All Power Reactor Applicants and Licensees

Subject: Reactor Operator and Senior Reactor Operator Requalification  
Examinations (Generic Letter No. 82-18)

Gentlemen:

This letter is to inform you that NRC-administered requalification examinations for licensed reactor operators and senior reactor operators will begin at your facility sometime after October 1, 1982.

Following the Three Mile Island Accident, the Commission directed the staff to administer examinations as part of the requalification program for all licensees and applicants. In response to SECY 82-232, "Use of Non-Plant-specific Simulators for Initial, Replacement, and Requalification Examinations for Licensed Reactor Operators and Senior Operators," the Commission approved staff recommendations regarding the use of simulators for requalification examinations. A copy of SECY 82-232 is attached for your information. To implement these directives, the NRC staff intends to conduct requalification examinations at your facility. The procedures for the requalification examinations are still under development and review. Additional information will be provided to you later this year.

Subject to timely approval of the procedures for conducting the requalification examinations, we intend to administer a written and an operating examination to at least 20% of your licensed personnel per year. In this way, all licensed personnel will be examined at least every five years and the impact on your requalification training program will be minimized. Detailed schedules will be worked out with your training staff. The NRC plans on making two visits to your facility during the year for replacement examinations and one visit for requalification examinations. Therefore, scheduling of replacement and requalification examinations, including reexamination of failures will need to be closely coordinated to prevent the number of licensed operators from being reduced to unacceptable levels and to ensure timely reexaminations can be given.

An objective written examination consistent with the scope of the requalification program required by Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 55 will be administered to selected licensed personnel. If your plant has a plant-specific simulator, an operating examination will be conducted on that simulator. Otherwise, an operating examination will be conducted at your facility. Unsatisfactory performance will necessitate removal from licensed duties and accelerated retraining in weak areas. This is consistent with your in-house requalification program currently in place. Reexamination by NRC may be required in unsatisfactory areas. Renewal licenses will continue

to be issued to licensed personnel who are enrolled in your approved requalification program, provided the NRC requalification examinations do not indicate significant weaknesses in that program.

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This program should not represent a significant departure from the requalification program you already have in place, since you are required to conduct examinations at the reactor operator or senior reactor operator level as part of that program. It will, however, provide the NRC and the public with additional assurance that continued operator training is effectively being conducted. We encourage you to submit training material and examination questions and answer keys to NRC for our use in developing examinations.

In addition, in response to SECY 82-232 the Commission removed the requirement for NRC conducted simulator examinations for those plants that do not have plant specific simulators. The NRC staff is conducting an evaluation of the role of simulators in training and examinations to be completed by July 1983. When this study is completed, we intend to incorporate any changes into revisions to 10 CFR Part 55, Regulatory Guide 1.8 or into new regulatory guides, if necessary. Until then, the requirements for requalification training in Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 55 and NUREG-0737 remain in effect. You should refer to NUREG-0094 and Regulatory Guide 1.8 for additional guidance on initial and requalification training.

You will be contacted at a later date to schedule requalification examinations. If you have any questions on this program, please contact Mr. Don H. Beckham of the NRC's Division of Human Factors Safety at (301)492-4868.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
SECY 82-232