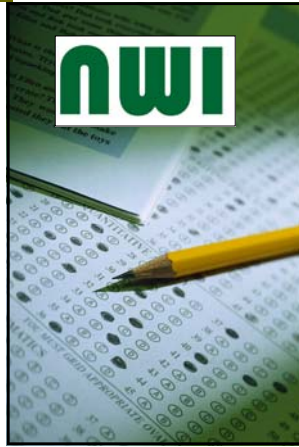


NRC Exam Development Support



A number of utilities struggle when it comes time to develop and give NRC Initial License Operator Examinations. Unsatisfactory submittals and poor pass rates are normally the results of poorly executed examination projects. If you are in that bind...NW professional exam developers can help. Experienced in both PWR and BWR exam development, our professionals have been developing and implementing exams for decades with excellent results. These experienced exam writers have determined the difference between successful exam performance and marginal or unsatisfactory exam projects. These success factors can be boiled down to a few critical factors described below.

Appropriate Level of Management Commitment. Every plant project is a management challenge and developing an NRC exam is no exception. As with all projects, the “right resources” and “priorities” must be applied. Often NRC examination preparation resources are underestimated and priorities are set too low or provided at a lower experience level, resulting in less than acceptable outcomes. The “right resources” and expertise must be selected...especially since an exam pass rate of 100% is very challenging and given relatively recent changes by the NRC in exam development guidance. The regulatory, financial, operational, and organizational impacts of just one license failure is very high and can affect the station organization for years. NW can definitely help provide the expertise required for good performance including training your in-house staff for the future!

Communication with the NRC Chief Examiner. All NRC Chief Examiners are interested in a high-quality product, which is ready for approval with minimal adjustment required. The NRC Chief Examiner typically focuses on the exam authors’ historical areas of concern. They will discuss individual topics with authors, recognizing that early corrections will prevent later problems of larger scale. This is where experience in “negotiating” the correct material is so important and where the expertise of the NW staff can help!

Validation of Examination Material. Validation accomplishes two purposes, a SAT examination submittal and 100% pass rate result. The ability for the examination to discriminate the *minimum competency* for safe operation is determined by administering the examination to licensed individuals of *established competency*. Experience and expertise is a real must here in guiding the validation process and during comment resolution.

These three critical factors when professionally and methodically addressed, will ensure that our clients avoid pitfalls such as low training program throughput and degraded regulatory margin.. NW is able to help you to address these critical factors and assist you in developing and implementing a successful examination project. NW’s exam expertise is both in PWR and BWR reactors including vintage designs. Whether you require dynamic or written component or an audit or NRC exam (or both), let NW provide you a path to success. Call us today for price quotes and expertise availability.

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