

Questions Asked/Answered at the Workshop

- Is it NRC policy for every JPM to have adverse safety consequences if the operator makes an error?
- Does the exam have to cover RP and EP (10 CFR 55.43)?
- There are still regional “requirements” (not NUREG interpretations) outside of NUREG 1021 such as ROI’s, etc...example: “one scenario must have a computer failure” Why are these things still out there? Shouldn’t they be in 1021 if they are required?
- Why are we testing abilities and/or skills on the written exam vs. on the simulator exam (via K/A catalog)? Shouldn’t we test knowledge on the written exam and abilities on the operational portion of the exam?
- What would it take to go back to (pre-revision 8) a site-specific K/A catalog in line with the SAT-based process?
- Could anything be done such that the GFES is generated (and thus administered) just-in-time?
- Why does a group with only 1 or 2 safety-significant K/A’s have as much weight as one with 200? Can 1021 be changed to remove this artificiality?
- When can we expect Revision 8, supplement 1 to be issued? What is in it?
- Is there a “hard-limit” to the number of people that can sign in on a security agreement?
- Do practice exams late in the program have to be accounted for in the exam overlap restrictions?
- If an exam compromise is suspected, are the examiners expected to leave the site?
- What if a random K/A can not be used to prepare a discriminating question? Is it fair to replace the K/A with one that that is more difficult? (Can we throw out a K/A simply because it is too hard to write a discriminatory question?)
- Why is it valid to use a closed reference exam for initial license exams when it is really important that the operator use all of the tools available to him on shift? Where is the NRC headed on the use of open reference requalification questions on initial exams?
- Why is the admin area a stand-alone area on the exam? Why is it even there at all?
- What is the criteria for doing reactivity manipulations on the simulator?
- Why did the NRC, INPO, and NEI meet to discuss future options for the exam process without involving industry representatives in the process?
- What is it going to take to use the instructor in both the exam development process and in candidate instruction/supervision?
- Can we clarify the definition of a “significantly modified” question?

**Additional/Repeat Questions asked during the break-out sessions
that did not make the “top 5” list**

- What is the NRC doing to ensure that the examiners are working to the same standards?
- Why does there have to be an Admin JPM on radiological items/E-plan for RO's? This is GET (general employee training) material!
- Why is there a time limit for written exams? Why not just an upper limit with no extensions? Maybe 7 hours?
- Why doesn't the NRC staff have additional staff to support emergent utility exam needs?
- Why is it unacceptable to have a question with a difficulty rating of "1", if that is what the randomly generated sample plan called for?
- If a utility does not have enough staff to write an ILO exam, is it better to have a vendor or the NRC write the exam?
- JPM/Admin sample rate is small. Therefore >1 failure results in an overall failure. Is it possible to get something with more balance?
- Why are we using more JPM's for the admin section?
- What are the final Rev. 8 and supplemental security relaxational benefits?
- What is the objective criteria for determining that an exam question is SAT or UNSAT?
- How will PRA need to be identified in future exams?
- How do we stabilize this process so that it won't have a detrimental effect on industry staffing needs? (Taking into account the huge demands that will be necessary due to the aging workforce.)
- Is the NRC going to provide specific guidance for the use of surrogates in the exam process?
- Where can I find the criteria for the 1-5 difficulty rating on exam questions? Has any utility perfected the application of this?
- Why does anyone feel that we got what we asked for when Virginia Power requested that utilities be able to write and administer the exams?
- How do you work the "split exam" concept?
- How can you maintain NRC examiner proficiency if developing "split exams"?
- Who is responsible for defending a question during the appeal process?
- Can we increase the number of candidates/scenario?

- Are static simulator examinations still required for NRC administered requalification exams?
- What is an effective sample plan generation?
- When does the clock start for the 20% untestable questions?
- What are the specific criteria for overlap vs. repeatable questions (in the requal program)?
- Can the 25 questions from the previous 2 NRC exams be used if randomly generated without modification?
- Writing of exams is not voluntary because of resource restraints. What is the NRC doing about it?

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