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1993 Comprehensive and Power Reactor Scoring Procedures

Carl H. Distenfeld, Chairman, ABHP

Morgan Cox, Part I Panel Chair, determined that the 1993 average grade is within 2.1% of the most recent 5-year average for Part I exams. The standard deviation of the five scores was 1.5%. Since about two-thirds of the exam questions are retained each year and many new questions were recycled from the past, consistent performance suggests consistent preparation and quality of candidates; 47% of the Part I candidates passed the exam.

The 1993 Comprehensive and Power Reactor Part II exams were graded differently this year. Since several graders scored each question, both the score and the standard deviation were available. A pooled standard deviation (psd) was calculated for all questions worked for each candidate. The candidate's Examination Working Score (EWS) was the Raw Total Score (RTS) plus 2 times the psd. This provided a 97.5% confidence that the true raw total score could not be greater than the EWS.

The Part II exam is created new each year. The panel and board aim to write a balanced exam that is equal in difficulty to previous exams. Noting the consistent Part I results, the ABHP elected to assume that Part II candidates were as invariant as Part I. As a consequence, the 1993 exam was compared with previous exams. The average score for the previous 5 comprehensive and power reactor exams, weighted for number of candidates, was compared to the 1993 average RTS score. The difference between the previous 5-year average and the present provided an historical adjustment factor (HAF) of 54.8 points lower for 1993 comprehensive and 60.4 points lower for 1993 power reactor exams. The individual candidate Score For Record (SFR) was $SFR = RTS + (2 * psd) + HAF$.

The passing point was maintained at 469 points, 67%, out of a possible 700 points; 49% of the comprehensive and 43% of the power reactor candidates passed the 1993 Part II Examinations. All exams with $RTS + HAF \geq 449$ were inspected by the appropriate panel chair for transcription errors. ■