

November 29, 2000

Mr. Gary Van Middlesworth
Site General Manager
Duane Arnold Energy Center
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - DUANE
ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

Dear Mr. Middlesworth:

On November 7, 2000, the NRC staff completed its Mid-Cycle plant performance assessment of the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The Mid-Cycle Review for the Duane Arnold Energy Center involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of April 2, 2000 through September 30, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2001.

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through September 30, 2001. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last 6 months of the inspection plans are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

G. Middlesworth

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If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (630) 829-9629 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bruce Burgess, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-331
License No. DPR-49

Enclosure: Duane Arnold Energy Center Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: E. Protsch, Executive Vice President -
Energy Delivery, Alliant;
President, IES Utilities, Inc.
Robert G. Anderson, Plant Manager
K. Peveler, Manager, Regulatory Performance
State Liaison Officer
Chairperson, Iowa Utilities Board
The Honorable Charles W. Larson, Jr.
Iowa State Representative

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