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NRC APPROVES POWER UPRATE FOR DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by Nuclear Management Company to increase the generating capacity of the Duane Arnold nuclear power plant by about 15.3 percent, or 80 megawatts.

The power uprate at the plant, near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will increase the generating capacity of the reactor to about 600 megawatts of electricity. The facility intends to implement the power increase immediately. The application for the increase in power was submitted to the NRC on November 16, 2000.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the requested power uprate for the plant focused on several areas, including nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, operations and technical specification changes. The NRC staff determined that the licensee could safely increase the power output of the reactor with replacement of the main transformer and other modifications to plant equipment.

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