

3/18/77

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J. Wetmore

Docket No. 50-331

Iowa Electric Light & Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. Duane Arnold  
President  
P. O. Box 351  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Gentlemen:

Your letter of March 10, 1977, requested permission to machine alternate bypass flow holes in the lower tie plates of 7 x 7 irradiated fuel assemblies during the current refueling outage of Duane Arnold Energy Center. This machining would utilize the electrical-discharge machine technique previously reviewed and documented in the "Safety Evaluation Report on Electrical-Discharge Machine of Lower Tie Plates of Irradiated BWR Fuel Assemblies", USNRC, May, 1976.

The effects of the proposed modifications were presented in "Supplemental Information for Plant modifications to Eliminate Significant In-Core Vibration", NEDE-21156, Class III, January 1976. The Regulatory Staff review of this generic document resulted in the "Safety Evaluation Report on the Peactor Modification to Eliminate Significant In-Core Vibration in Operating Reactors with one-inch Bypass Holes in the Core Support Plate", USNRC, February, 1976.

Your request is consistent with the staff's generic approval of this machining technique. There are no unique aspects of the Duane Arnold plant which precludes the requested action. Therefore, Iowa Electric Light and Power Company is permitted to machine two alternate bypass flow holes in the lower tie plates of fuel assemblies as requested.

Sincerely,

George Lear, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #3  
Division of Operating Reactors

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cc: See next page

OFFICE	ORB#3	ORB#3			
SURNAME	SNowicki	GLear			
DATE	3/18/77	3/18/77			

Iowa Electric Light & Power Company - 2 -

cc:

Mr. Robert Lowenstein, Esquire  
Harold F. Reis, Esquire  
Lowenstein, Newman, Reis and Axelrad  
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

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