

January 29, 2001

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

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD - RESOLUTION OF UNRESOLVED SECURITY ISSUE

Dear Mr. Van Middlesworth:

Section 3PP2.b of Inspection Report No. 50-331/2000004, dated August 10, 2000, identified an unresolved item pertaining to access to vital areas. 10 CFR 73.55(d)(7) and section 5.5.2 of the licensee's security plan requires access to vital areas to be limited to personnel authorized and who need access to the areas to perform non-emergency duties. During the inspection, a six month card history was run for eight randomly selected persons and a comparison was made to the vital areas authorized and entry into those areas for the six month period. This review showed that in all cases personnel had been granted access to one or more vital areas that they had not entered within the past six months. Additionally, all three persons in one department (licensing) had not entered any vital areas they had been granted access to for the six month period. The unresolved item was whether the frequency of access to a vital area needs to be considered when determining work-related need for vital area access.

The NRC has concluded that the frequency of access to a vital area should be closely reviewed by supervisors when reviewing the justification for granting continued access. However, the lack of frequent access to a vital area is not a singular cause to deny access. Such occasions of infrequent access are expected to be exceptions (e.g., fire brigade members, EMTs, first responders, etc.) since most plants have procedural guidance that allow timely changes to access levels for outages and other known work projects. Individual supervisors (rather than the security organization) bear the primary regulatory responsibility for limiting vital area access authorization to personnel with legitimate non-emergency work related needs. We have concluded that your activities complied with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

James R. Creed
Safeguards Program Manager
Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: 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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Sincerely,
/RA/
James R. Creed
Safeguards Program Manager
Division of Reactor Safety

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Energy Delivery, Alliant;
President, IES Utilities, Inc.
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State Liaison Officer
Chairperson, Iowa Utilities Board
The Honorable Charles W. Larson, Jr.
Iowa State Representative

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