

April 2, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Van Middlesworth:

In response to your facility letter dated October 13, 2000, we have tentatively scheduled an initial licensing examination for your operator license applicants at the Duane Arnold Energy Center during the week of November 18, 2002. Validation of the examination will occur at the station during the week of October 7, 2002. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled week, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

As stated in your letter and confirmed in a telephone conversation between W. Render, Duane Arnold, and D. R. McNeil, NRC, on February 28, 2001, your staff will develop the examination. To support the examination date, we have tentatively scheduled the date of September 16, 2002, to begin our review of your submitted exam.

Please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you are unable to support the examination on the scheduled dates.

Once your staff has determined a schedule for examination development, please have them contact the Chief Examiner to arrange for a suitable examination outline submittal date for NRC review. The intent is for the examination outline to be submitted early in the examination development process. This is to preclude the need to make significant changes to developed examination material as a result of the NRC review of the outline. Mr. David L. Pelton has been tentatively assigned as the Chief Examiner and can be reached at 630-829-9732.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the examination outlining examination security expectations, listing the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirming the examination dates, and reconfirming the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mr. Dell R. McNeil of my staff at 630-829-9737.

In accordance with 10 CFR 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/**

David E. Hills, Chief  
Operations Branch  
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  
K. D. Young, Training Department

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Chairperson, Iowa Utilities Board  
The Honorable Charles W. Larson, Jr.  
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K. D. Young, Training Department

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