

May 8, 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 ENERGY CENTER  
INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 50-331/01-301(DRS)

Dear Mr. Van Middlesworth:

On April 13, 2001, the NRC completed initial operator licensing examinations at your Duane Arnold Energy Center facility. The enclosed report presents the results of the examination.

Duane Arnold Energy Center training department personnel administered the written examination on April 13, 2001, and NRC examiners administered the operating tests during the week of April 9, 2001. Three Reactor Operator candidates and two Senior Reactor Operator candidates were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on May 2, 2001. Four candidates passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses. The fifth applicant passed all sections of the examinations; however, will not be issued a senior reactor operator license until the conditions of a pre-approved medical waiver are complete.

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

*ML011360073 - EXAM REPORT*

*RO ML011220575*  
*SRO ML011220583*

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely,



David E. Hills, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

- Enclosures:
1. Operator Licensing Examination Report  
50-331/01-301(DRS)
  2. Simulation Facility Report
  3. Written Examinations and Answer Keys (RO & SRO)

cc w/encl: <sup>HA</sup> 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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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

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

Report No: 50-331/01-301(DRS)

Licensee: Nuclear Management Company, LLC

Facility: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Location: 3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, Iowa 52324-9785

Dates: April 9 through April 13, 2001

Examiners: A. M. Stone, Chief Examiner  
M. Bielby, Senior Operations Engineer  
D. Pelton, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: David E. Hills, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000331-01-301(DRS), on 04/09-04/13/2001, Nuclear Management Company, LLC, Duane Arnold Energy Center, Unit 1. Initial License Examination Report.

The announced operator licensing initial examination was conducted by regional examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, Addendum 1.

### Examination Summary:

Three reactor operator candidates and two senior reactor operator candidates were administered written examinations and operating tests for initial operator licensing. Four candidates passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses. The fifth applicant passed all sections of the examinations; however, will not be issued a senior reactor operator license until the conditions of a pre-approved medical waiver are complete.

## Report Details

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

#### 4OA5 Other

##### .1 Initial Licensing Examinations

###### a. Inspection Scope

The NRC examiners conducted announced operator licensing initial examinations during the week of April 9, 2001. The facility's training staff used the guidance established in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, Addendum 1, to prepare the examination outline and to develop the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners administered the operating test on April 9 through April 12, 2001, and the facility's training staff administered the written examination on April 13, 2001. Three reactor operator candidates and two senior reactor operator candidates were examined.

###### b. Findings

###### Written Examination

The NRC examiners determined that the written examination, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. No post examination comments were submitted by the licensee.

###### Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. No post examination comments were submitted by the licensee.

###### Examination Results

Four candidates passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses. The fifth applicant passed all sections of the examinations; however, will not be issued a senior reactor operator license until the conditions of a pre-approved medical waiver are complete.

##### .2 Examination Security

###### a. Inspection Scope

The examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination preparation and administration.

b. Findings

The NRC examiners determined that the licensee's examination security practices associated with the development and administration of the operator license examinations were satisfactory.

4OA6 Management Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings to Mr. Van Middlesworth and other members of the licensee management on April 13, 2001. The licensee acknowledged the observations and findings presented. No proprietary or safeguards information was identified during the exit meeting.

The chief examiner discussed the results of the examination with Mr. K. Young on May 2, 2001.

## KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

### Licensee

R. Anderson, Plant Manager  
R. Brown, Quality Assurance  
M. David, Operations Training Supervisor  
M. Fisher, Instructor  
P. Hansen, Operations Supervisor  
R. Hunt, Simulator Operator  
G. Pry, Operations Shift Supervisor  
K. Putnam, Licensing Manger  
W. Render, Instructor  
G. Van Middlesworth, Site General Manager  
M. Walter, Operations Instructor  
K. Young, Training Manager

### NRC

D. Hills, Chief, Operations Branch  
M. Kurth, Resident Inspector, Duane Arnold Energy Center

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADAMS	Agency-Wide Document Access and Management System
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Facility Docket No: 50-331

Operating Tests Administered: April 9 through 12, 2001

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1.	The simulator did not respond properly and required re-booting on Monday, April 9, 2001. During the troubleshooting period, the examiners continued to administer job performance measures tasks by verbally providing system response feedback cues to the applicants.

Enclosure 3

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS AND ANSWER KEYS (RO/SRO)

RO Exam ADAMS Accession # ML011220575  
SRO Exam ADAMS Accession # ML011220583