

September 6, 2001

Mr. Gary Van Middlesworth  
Site General Manager  
Duane Arnold Energy Center  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER - DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION  
REGARDING THE PROPOSED EXTENDED POWER UPRATE  
(TAC NO. MB0543)

Dear Mr. Van Middlesworth:

By letter dated November 16, 2000, Nuclear Management Company (NMC), the licensee, requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-49 for the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). The original application was supplemented by letters dated April 16 and 17; May 8, 10, 11, 22, and 29; June 5, 11, 18, 21, and 28; July 11, 19, and 25; and August 1, 10, 16, and 21, 2001. The proposed amendment would allow an increase of the authorized operating power level from 1658 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 1912 MWt at DAEC. The change represents an increase of 15.3 percent above the current rated thermal power and is considered an extended power uprate. The amendment would approve changes to the operating license and the technical specifications appended to the operating license to implement uprated power operation.

Enclosed is a draft of the safety evaluation (SE) that the staff has prepared to support the amendment request. A copy of this draft SE (DSE) was also sent to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) in preparation for its September 26 through 28, 2001, subcommittee meeting that is being held to discuss the application. The presentations to the ACRS Full Committee are scheduled for October 4 through 6, 2001.

Please provide any comments that you may have on the enclosed DSE with regard to factual accuracy or inclusion of proprietary information by September 20, 2001. The target date for your response has been discussed with Mr. Ken Putnam of your staff. Should a situation occur which prevents you from meeting the date, please contact me at 301-415-2020.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Brenda L. Mozafari, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl: See next page

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Duane Arnold Energy Center

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