

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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NAME	B Mozafari	T Harris	C Craig
DATE	9/6/01	9/6/01	9/6/01

Duane Arnold Energy Center

cc:

Al Gutterman  
Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius LLP  
1800 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Chairman, Linn County  
Board of Supervisors  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Plant Manager, Nuclear  
Duane Arnold Energy Center  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, IA 52324

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector's Office  
Rural Route #1  
Palo, IA 52324

Regional Administrator  
U.S. NRC, Region III  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, IL 60532-4531

Daniel McGhee  
Utilities Division  
Iowa Department of Commerce  
Lucas Office Building, 5th floor  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Mr. Roy A. Anderson  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
700 First Street  
Hudson, WI 54016

Nuclear Asset Manager  
Alliant Energy/IES Utilities, Inc.  
3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, IA 52324