

August 31, 2001
NG-01-1029

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Mail Station 0-P1-17
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Duane Arnold Energy Center
Docket No: 50-331
Op. License No: DPR-49
Single-Failure Proof Status of Reactor Building Crane

References: 1. Amendment No. 195 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-49, dated February 2, 1994 (TAC No. M86284)
2. NG-96-1637, Letter dated September 13, 1996, from K. Peveler (IES) to NRC, Resolution of Single Failure Proof Status of Reactor Building Crane
3. Letter dated August 3, 2001, from B. Mozafari (NRC) to G. Van Middlesworth (NMC), Duane Arnold Energy Center - Single-Failure Proof Status of Reactor Building Crane (TAC No. M97242)

File: A-101a, T-31

In 1994, the NRC issued Amendment 195 to the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) Operating License which allowed reracking the DAEC spent fuel pool (Reference 1). The safety evaluation of the amendment contained a statement that the reactor building crane could not be considered single-failure proof because the NRC had not reviewed the seismic analysis.

By letter dated September 13, 1996 (Reference 2), the DAEC provided background information to the NRC, and requested that the Staff concur with the DAEC's conclusion that the crane was single-failure proof. By letter dated August 3, 2001 (Reference 3), the Staff stated that they could not concur on the status of the crane without reviewing the seismic calculations. The letter also requested that Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) revise the DAEC Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) to clarify that the NRC has not endorsed the crane as single-failure proof.

On August 17, 2001, a telephone conversation was held with the Staff to clarify the intent of the August 3 letter. Based on this conversation, it is NMC's understanding that it is the Staff's intent that NMC clarify the crane's status with regard to future licensing actions, not to prohibit the use of existing procedures for the movement of critical loads. As discussed with the Staff during that call, NMC will submit the seismic analysis for the reactor building crane for the Staff's review. In the interim, pending NRC review of the calculations, the DAEC will continue to maintain and operate the reactor building crane in accordance with existing procedures. NMC does not believe it is desirable to alter these requirements pending final resolution of this issue, nor is it necessary to further restrict the use of current lifting practices that are in accordance with NUREG 0612.

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As requested in the August 3, 2001 letter, the DAEC UFSAR has been revised to denote that the NRC has not endorsed the reactor building crane as single-failure proof. In the fourth quarter of 2001, NMC will submit the seismic analysis for the crane for the Staff's review.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Van Middlesworth". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary Van Middlesworth
DAEC Site Vice President

cc: C. Rushworth
R. Anderson (NMC)
B. Mozafari (NRC-NRR)
J. Dyer (Region III)
NRC Resident Office
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