

June 10, 1988

Docket No. 50-331

Distribution:

Mr. Lee Liu  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company  
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Dear Mr. Liu:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This environmental assessment relates to your December 11, 1987 application for an amendment to revise the Technical Specification relating to the Engineered Safety Feature logic system functional testing frequency and requirements.

The environmental assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*151*

James R. Hall, Project Manager  
Project Directorate III-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - III,  
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: See next page

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

*subly to add'l wording on p. 2*

Mr. Lee Liu  
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

Duane Arnold Energy Center

cc:

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Kathleen H. Shea, Esquire  
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Mr. John A. Eure  
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
IOWA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, ET AL.  
DOCKET NO. 50-331  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF  
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-49, issued to Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (the licensees), for operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), located in Linn County, Iowa.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise the provisions in the Technical Specifications, (TS) relating to the Engineered Safety Feature (ESF) logic system functional testing frequency and requirements.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 11, 1987.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed changes to the TS are required so that the licensee can perform comprehensive logic system functional testing each refueling outage, in accordance with the staff position on this issue.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revisions to the DAEC Technical Specifications. The proposed revisions would extend the logic

system functional test frequency from annually to once per operating cycle (typically 18 months), and would clarify the definition of Logic System Functional Test, for consistency with the NRC staff's position. This extension would allow these tests to be performed during periodic plant shutdowns, so that all ESF logic system components can be properly tested. Changing the frequency of various Logic System Functional Tests from annually to once per operating cycle increases the surveillance interval by approximately 50%. The probability of detecting a random failure of a contact or relay in a logic system is similarly decreased by approximately 50%. However, the reliability of the mechanical components of a safety system remains unchanged because these components are functionally tested or calibrated at unchanged and more frequent intervals. Since the probability of a relay or contact failure is small relative to the probability of mechanical component failure, increasing the logic system functional test interval represents no significant change in the overall safety system unavailability. The proposed changes would also result in more comprehensive testing. Therefore, although testing will be less frequent, it will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. No changes are being made in the types or amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite. There is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed changes to the TS involve systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on May 4, 1988 (53 FR 15931). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Duane Arnold Energy Center, dated March 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated December 11, 1987 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 First Street, S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, This 10th day of June 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Kenneth E. Perkins, Director  
Project Directorate III-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - III,  
IV, V and Special Projects