

September 26, 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: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM THE SCHEDULAR REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROPERTY INSURANCE RULE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 4, 1988 (10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(i))

On August 5, 1987, the NRC published in the Federal Register a final rule amending 10 CFR 50.54(w). The rule increased the amount of on-site property damage insurance required to be carried by NRC's power reactor licensees. The rule also required these licensees to obtain by October 4, 1988 insurance policies that prioritized insurance proceeds for stabilization and decontamination after an accident and provided for payment of proceeds to an independent trustee who would disburse funds for decontamination and cleanup before any other purpose.

Subsequent to publication of the rule, the NRC has been informed by insurers who offer nuclear property insurance that, despite a good faith effort to obtain trustees required by the rule, the decontamination priority and trusteeship provisions will not be able to be incorporated into policies by the time required in the rule. In response to these comments and related petitions for rulemaking, the Commission has proposed a revision of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(i) extending the implementation schedule for 18 months (53 FR 36338, September 19, 1988). However, because it is unlikely that this rulemaking action will be completed by October 4, 1988, the Commission is issuing a temporary exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(i) until completion of the pending rulemaking extending the implementation date specified in 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(i), but not later than April 1, 1989. Upon completion of such rulemaking, the licensee shall comply with the provisions of such rule.

Enclosed is an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact relating to a temporary exemption from 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(i) for the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

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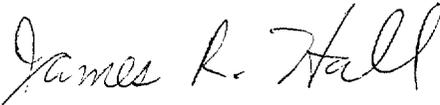
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Mr. Lee Liu

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This assessment is being forwarded to the Office of Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Date: 9/26/88

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Mr. Lee Liu
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

Duane Arnold Energy Center

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
IOWA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY ET AL.

DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

DOCKET NO. 50-331

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CONCERNING EXEMPTION FROM

10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(1)

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(1) to Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (the licensees) for the Duane Arnold Energy Center, located at the licensees' site in Linn County, Iowa.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

On August 5, 1987, the NRC published in the FEDERAL REGISTER a final rule amending 10 CFR 50.54(w). The rule increased the amount of on-site property damage insurance required to be carried by NRC's power reactor licensees. The rule also required these licensees to obtain by October 4, 1988 insurance policies that prioritized insurance proceeds for stabilization and decontamination after an accident and provided for payment of proceeds to an independent trustee who would disburse funds for decontamination and cleanup before any other purpose. Subsequent to publication of the rule, the NRC has been informed by insurers who offer nuclear property insurance that, despite a good faith effort to obtain trustees required by the rule, the decontamination priority and trusteeship

provisions will not be able to be incorporated into policies by the time required in the rule. In response to these comments and related petitions for rulemaking, the Commission has proposed a revision of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(f) extending the implementation schedule for 18 months (53 FR 36338, September 19, 1988). However, because it is unlikely that this rulemaking action will be effective by October 4, 1988, the Commission is issuing a temporary exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(f) until completion of the pending rulemaking extending the implementation date specified in 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(f), but not later than April 1, 1989. Upon completion of such rulemaking, the licensee shall comply with the provisions of such rule.

The Need for The Proposed Action:

The exemption is needed because insurance complying with requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(5)(f) is unavailable and because the temporary delay in implementation allowed by the exemption and associated rulemaking action will permit the Commission to reconsider on its merits the trusteeship provision of 10 CFR 50.54(w)(4).

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

With respect to radiological impacts on the environment, the proposed exemption does not in any way affect the operation of licensed facilities. Further, as noted by the Commission in the Supplementary Information accompanying the proposed rule, there are several reasons for concluding that delaying for a reasonable time the implementation of the stabilization and decontamination priority and trusteeship provisions of Section 50.54(w) will not adversely affect protection of public health and safety. First, during the

period of delay, the licensee will still be required to carry \$1.06 billion insurance. This is a substantial amount of coverage that provides a significant financial cushion to licensees to decontaminate and clean up after an accident even without the prioritization and trusteeship provisions. Second, nearly 75% of the required coverage already is prioritized under the decontamination liability and excess property insurance language of the Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited-II policies. Finally, there is only an extremely small probability of a serious accident occurring during the exemption period. Even if a serious accident giving rise to substantial insurance claims were to occur, NRC would be able to take appropriate enforcement action to assure adequate cleanup to protect public health and safety and the environment.

The proposed exemption does not affect radiological or nonradiological effluents from the site and has no other nonradiological impacts.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

It has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption; any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources beyond the scope of resources used during normal plant operation.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The staff did not consult other agencies or persons in connection with the proposed exemption.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For information concerning this action, see the proposed rule (53 FR 36338), and the exemption which is being processed concurrent with this notice. A copy of the exemption will be available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C., and at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 First Street, S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 26th day of September , 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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