

May 6, 1993

Docket No. 50-331

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 RELATED TO
AN APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 50, APPENDIX J
(TAC NO. M86313)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact related to the temporary exemption requested
in your application dated April 29, 1993.

The original of the Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office
of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Jon B. Hopkins

for Robert M. Pulsifer, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

OFFICE	PD3-3:LA	PD3-3:PM JBT for	PD3-3:PD	OGC
NAME	MRushbrook	RPulsifer/rmp/bj	JHannon	E. Heller
DATE	5/4/93	5/4/93	5/6/93	5/5/93

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Mr. Lee Liu
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

Duane Arnold Energy Center

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

IOWA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

CENTRAL IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE

CORN BELT POWER COOPERATIVE

DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

DOCKET NO. 50-331

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a temporary exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water-Cooled Power Reactors," in response to a request filed by the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, the Central Iowa Power Cooperative, and the Corn Belt Power Cooperative (the licensee), for the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), located in Linn County, Iowa.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed temporary exemption would defer containment air lock testing in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.2(b) until the next outage (the next refuel outage is currently planned for July 29, 1993).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for temporary exemption dated April 29, 1993.

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The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed temporary exemption is needed because the licensee has determined upon review of containment air lock testing requirements for DAEC that an additional air lock test should have been performed following the final drywell inspection entry performed on January 29, 1993, during the plant startup sequence. Previously, the licensee performed a successful containment air lock test on January 28, 1993. Performing the air lock test at full power would result in an estimated dose of 1.6 man-rem. Reducing power to conduct the test could jeopardize the leakage characteristics of the "B" recirculation pump seal, which is exhibiting slightly increased leakage, resulting in even greater leakage.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The NRC staff has reviewed the potential environmental impact of the proposed temporary exemption. The containment air lock consists of two doors. Provided that at least one of the two doors is secured, the primary containment boundary is intact. Air lock construction incorporates a mechanical interlock which ensures that at least one of the doors is secured at all times. In addition, the last twenty air lock tests successfully met the acceptance criterion. Therefore, the NRC staff finds that based on the air lock performance history, and the procedural controls on air lock operation, containment air lock closure is reasonably assured. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed deferral of the containment air lock test will not cause significant increase in the nonradiological impacts and will not change any conclusions reached by the staff in the "Final Environmental Statement Related to Operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center," dated March 1973. Therefore, the staff concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Because the Commission's staff has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, any alternatives would have either no significantly different environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of plant operations.

Alternative Use of Resources

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

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff consulted with the State of Iowa regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed temporary exemption.

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 temporary exemption dated April 29, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington D.C. and at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 First St., S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of May 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by John N. Hannon

John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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