

January 3, 2003

Mr. Mark Peifer  
Site Vice-President  
Duane Arnold Energy Center  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, IA 52324

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER  
INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION REPORT 50-331/02-301(DRS)

Dear Mr. Peifer:

On November 22, 2002, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners completed initial operator licensing examinations at the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The enclosed report documents the results of the examination which were discussed on November 22, 2002, with Mr. J. Bjorseth and other members of your staff.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the week of November 18, 2002. A written examination was administered by Duane Arnold Energy Center training personnel on November 22, 2002. Six Reactor Operator (RO) and two Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on December 20, 2002. Each of the applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

M. Peifer

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-331  
License No. DPR-49

Enclosures: 1. Operator Licensing Examination  
Report 50-263/02-301(DRS)  
2. Simulation Facility Report  
3. Written Examinations and Answer  
Keys (RO & SRO)

cc w/encls 1 & 2: E. Protsch, Executive Vice President -  
Energy Delivery, Alliant;  
President, IES Utilities, Inc.  
Robert G. Anderson, Plant Manager  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairperson, Iowa Utilities Board  
The Honorable Charles W. Larson, Jr.  
Iowa State Representative

cc w/encls 1, 2 & 3: D. Curtland, Training Manager

M. Peifer

-2-

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The Honorable Charles W. Larson, Jr.  
Iowa State Representative

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No: 50-331  
License No: DPR-49

Report No: 50-331/02-301(DRS)

Licensee: Alliant, IES Utilities Inc.

Facility: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Location: 3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, Iowa 52324-9785

Dates: November 18 through November 22, 2002

Examiners: B. Palagi, Chief Examiner  
S. Guenther, Examiner  
P. Young, Examiner

Approved by: Roger Lanksbury, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ER 05000331-02-301(DRS); Nuclear Management Company, LLC; on 11/18-22/02; Duane Arnold Energy Center. Initial License Examination Report.

The announced operator licensing initial examination was conducted by NRC examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1.

### Examination Summary:

- Six Reactor Operator and two Senior Reactor Operators applicants were administered written and operating tests for operator licensing. Each of the applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses.

## REPORT DETAILS

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)

#### 4OA5 Other

##### .1 Initial Licensing Examinations

###### a. Examination Scope

The NRC examiners conducted an announced operator licensing initial examination during the week of November 18, 2002. The plant's training staff used the guidance established in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1, to prepare the examination outline and to develop the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners administered the operating test during the week of November 18, 2002. Duane Arnold Energy Center training staff members administered the written examination on November 22, 2002. Six Reactor Operator and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were examined.

###### b. Findings

###### Written Examination

The licensee developed the written examination. During the initial review of the examination, the examiners determined that the examination, as submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. During examination validation the week of October 7, 2002, examination changes agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee were incorporated according to the guidance contained in NUREG-1021.

The licensee graded the examination on November 22, 2002, and conducted a review of each question to determine accuracy and validity of the examination questions. The licensee had no post examination comments on the written examination.

###### Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally submitted by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Examination changes made during the validation of the operating test were agreed upon between the NRC and the licensee, and were made according to NUREG-1021.

###### Examination Results

Six Reactor Operator applicant and two Senior Reactor Operator applicants were administered written examinations and operating tests for initial operator licensing. Each of the applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and were issued applicable operator licenses.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination preparation and administration.

b. Findings

The following finding documents a violation of NRC examination security requirements:

During examination development, the licensee found the key to the examination development room in the door lock with the room unattended. An investigation by the licensee determined that the room was left uncontrolled for approximately 2 minutes but that no actual examination compromise had occurred.

This violation was considered minor in nature; therefore, it is not subject to enforcement action. This event has been entered into the licensee's corrective action program as Action Request 32498.

4OA6 Meetings

Exit Meeting

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on November 22, 2002, to Mr. J. Bjorseth and other members of the Operations and Training Department staff. The licensee acknowledged the observations and findings presented.



## PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

### Licensee

J. Bjorseth, Plant Manager  
P. Hansen, Operations Manager  
D. Curtland, Training Manager  
A. Johnson, Operator Training Supervisor  
J. Karrick, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor  
M. Walter, Operation Instructor  
W. Render, Operation Instructor  
R. Brixey, Operation Instructor  
S. Brewer, Operation Instructor  
G Thullen, Operation Instructor

### NRC

G. Wilson, Senior Resident Inspector  
S. Caudill, Resident Inspector

## ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED AND DISCUSSED

### Opened

None

### Closed

None

### Discussed

None

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

None

## LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ADAMS	Agency-Wide Document Access and Management System
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PARS	Publicly Available Records
RO	Reactor Operator
SRO	Senior Reactor Operator

SIMULATION FACILITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Facility Docket No.: 50-331

Operating Tests Administered: November 18 - 21, 2002

The following documents observations made by the NRC examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with 10 CFR 55.45(b). These observations do not affect NRC certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
None	

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS AND ANSWER KEYS (RO/SRO)

RO Initial Examination ADAMS Accession # ML030020337

SRO Initial Examination ADAMS Accession # ML030020375