

March 14, 2003

Mr. Mark A. Peifer  
Site Vice President  
Duane Arnold Energy Center  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, IA 52324-0351

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION FOR RELIEF REQUESTS NDE-ROO1 AND NDE-R045  
(TAC NO. MB4800 AND MB4803)

Dear Mr. Peifer:

By letter dated March 29, 2002, the Nuclear Management Company, LLC, forwarded four relief requests for the third 10-year interval of the Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program for Duane Arnold Energy Center and requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and approval. The NRC staff finds that additional information, identified in the enclosure, is needed for two of the four relief requests (non-destructive examination (NDE)-R001, Revision 1, and NDE-R045).

A draft of the enclosure was discussed with Ms. C. Rushworth and others of your organization during a phone call on March 6, 2003. Following that call, we have expanded the request regarding NDE-R045 by adding requests 2 and 3 to the draft questions. Our subsequent discussion with Mr. S. Catron and Ms. Rushworth on March 12, 2003, indicates a mutually agreeable response date of 30 days from the date of this letter.

Should you have questions regarding the enclosure, or in the event you should be unable to meet the response date, please contact me by phone at 301-415-3049 or by email (dsh@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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Duane Arnold Energy Center

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**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING**  
**RELIEF REQUESTS NDE-R001 (REVISION 1) AND NDE-R045**  
**DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER**  
**DOCKET NO. 50-331**

By letter dated March 29, 2002, Nuclear Management Company, LLC (the licensee) forwarded four relief requests for the third 10-year interval of the Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program for Duane Arnold Energy Center and requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and approval. The NRC staff finds that additional information is needed for two of the four relief requests:

**Relief Request NDE-R001, Revision 1 (TAC No. MB4800)**

1. Please provide the non-destructive examination (NDE) reports for reactor vessel welds VCB-B004, HMA-B002, and VCB-C005, complete with sketches showing the limitations regarding the extent of examination coverage. (The licensee's letter of March 29, 2002, only provided data for one of the four reactor vessel welds, HCC-C001, for which relief is requested).
2. Is relief being requested in advance of performing the NDE on the three reactor vessel welds listed in item 1 above? This is different from the remainder of the relief requests where the examination is performed, reviewed against previous interval results and coverage calculated. If so, please provide sketches of the limitations on examination coverage and discuss the results found from testing of the welds during the second 10-year ISI Interval. Indicate whether any pattern of degradation was found and, if so, discuss this pattern. Also, identify the expected percentage of coverage.
3. What action will be taken if the amount of coverage for which relief is sought should not be obtained?
4. Page 3 of Attachment 1 to the licensee's letter of March 29, 2002, states that HCC-C001 (the vessel head to flange weld) was examined as follows:

A third of this weld was examined during the RFO14 (1<sup>st</sup> period) with a weld coverage of 36.8 percent. The second third was examined during RF017 (2<sup>nd</sup> period) with a weld coverage of 70.54 percent. The third that was examined in RFO14 will be re-examined to obtain the 70.54 percent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period.

This infers that the final third of HCC-C001 (with partial coverage) will not be examined and it will be replaced by re-examining a portion of the weld examined during the 1<sup>st</sup> period. Please explain the limitation that prevents partial coverage of this final third.

**Relief Request NDE-R045 (TAC No. MB4803)**

1. This relief request addresses scram discharge weld SDN-CF010. Please indicate whether the NDE results were compared with previous data on this weld and whether there was any change in the results.
2. Please explain why the required coverage cannot be achieved using a two-sided or one-sided full Vee examination.
3. In the "Basis for Relief," you state that the adoption of Code Case N-460 "permits a reduction in examination coverage of Class 1 welds..."; however, your relief request pertains to Class 2 welds. Please address the applicability of your request relative to Class 2 welds.