

March 2, 2004

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  
CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

Dear Mr. Peifer:

In a letter dated September 25, 2003, your staff responded to NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2003-14, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations." An initial license examination was requested for the weeks of January 24, and January 31, 2005, and another initial license examination for the weeks of September 4, and September 11, 2006. Because the number of candidates for the January 2005 examination is currently listed as 10, only one week is required to complete the examination. The examination was scheduled for the week of January 31, 2005. The examination requested for the weeks of September 4 and September 11, 2006, will be scheduled as we approach those dates.

On-site validation of the examinations will occur at Duane Arnold Energy Center approximately 3 weeks before the examination administration date. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examinations during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examinations at a mutually acceptable date.

As indicated in your RIS response letter, your staff will develop the examinations. Your letter also indicated that you are training 12 candidates for the September 2006 examination. Please inform us if the number of candidates decreases below 10 as this will impact the examination schedule.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the initial examination informing them of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination dates, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mr. H. Peterson of my staff at 630-829-9707.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

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

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

cc: E. Protsch, Executive Vice President -  
Energy Delivery, Alliant;  
President, IES Utilities, Inc.  
J. Cowan, Chief Nuclear Officer  
J. Bjorseth, Plant Manager  
S. Catron, Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
J. Rogoff, Esquire General Counsel  
B. Lacy, Nuclear Asset Manager  
Chairman, Linn County Board of Supervisors  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairperson, Iowa Utilities Board  
The Honorable Charles W. Larson, Jr.  
Iowa State Representative

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