

August 5, 2004

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 - NET POSITIVE SUCTION HEAD FOR
EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM PUMPS (TAC NO. MB5429)

Dear Mr. Peifer:

By letter dated February 28, 2002, the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), submitted a proposed revision to the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) regarding the use of containment accident pressure in establishing a net positive suction head (NPSH) margin for the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) pumps. In the letter, NMC indicates that it made this proposed revision to implement the NRC staff's position on DAEC's future reliance on overpressure in establishing NPSH margins for ECCS pumps. Your letter was in response to our letter dated September 25, 2001, in which we expressed our concern that your NPSH acceptance criterion does not place a "...limit on the absolute value of the overpressure that may be assumed in NPSH calculations nor on the time period over which the overpressure may be assumed." You subsequently implemented the proposed revisions discussed in your February 28, 2002, letter in October 2003.

Because (1) your February 28, 2002, letter did not request NRC review and approval of the proposed UFSAR revision and (2) licensees are allowed to make changes to the FSAR without prior NRC approval as long as the changes meet the criteria of 10 CFR 50.59(c)(1), the NRC staff did not perform a review of your proposed revision to the DAEC UFSAR. Additionally, as part of the NRC's inspection program, the NRC staff may assess licensees' use of 10 CFR 50.59 for evaluating and reporting changes, tests, and experiments.

Accordingly, TAC No. MB5429 is considered closed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David P. Beaulieu, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

cc: See next page

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