November 22, 2006

Mr. Gary Van Middlesworth
Vice President
Duane Arnold Energy Center
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO RELIEF REQUEST NDE-R001 (TAC NO. MD2517)

Dear Mr. Van Middlesworth:

By letter dated June 30, 2006, FPL Energy Duane Arnold, LLC requested approval of several relief requests for the fourth 10-year inservice inspection interval at the Duane Arnold Energy Center. In relief request NDE-R001, you requested relief from certain requirements for snubber inservice examination and testing specified in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is reviewing your submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. The specific questions are found in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). During a telephone call on October 31, 2006, Mr. Tony Browning of your staff agreed to provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this RAI. If circumstances result in the need to revise your response date, or if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Karl Feintuch at (301) 415-3079.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard B. Ennis, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

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October 12, 2006

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

RELATED TO

RELIEF REQUEST NDE-R001

DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

DOCKET NO. 50-331

By letter dated June 30, 2006, FPL Energy Duane Arnold, LLC (FPL Energy or the licensee) requested approval of several relief requests for the fourth 10-year inservice inspection interval at the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). In relief request NDE-R001, the licensee requested relief from certain requirements for snubber inservice examination and testing specified in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code), paragraphs IWF-5200(a) and (b) and IWF-5300(a) and (b).

The request contained a table with comparisons between the DAEC Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) and Subsection ISTD of the ASME OM Code. As discussed in a conference call between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and FPL Energy on October 12, 2006, the comparison table was not intended to denote any planned DAEC commitment to Subsection ISTD. Therefore, the NRC staff will compare the TRM requirements against the requirements specified in ASME/ANSI OM-1987, Part 4 (OM-4) with OMa-1988. This approach was discussed with the licensee during the conference call.

The NRC staff needs the following additional information to complete its review:

1) In Relief Request NDE-R001, under "Alternate Examination," the licensee states: "Visual examiners, who are qualified to the applicable rules of ASME Section XI, Article IWA-2300, "Qualification of Nondestructive Examination Personnel" will perform the examinations and tests of Class 1, 2, and 3 component snubbers." Please explain whether and how the VT-3 requirements, as described in IWA-2213, will be met by using IWA-2300 requirements.

2) ASME/ANSI OM-1987, Part 4 (OM-4) with OMa-1988, Paragraph 3.2.4.2 states: "Unacceptable snubber(s) shall be categorized into failure mode group(s). A test failure mode group(s) shall include all unacceptable snubbers that have a given failure mode, and all other snubbers subject to the same failure mode." Please explain whether and how the requirements of OM-4, Paragraph 3.2.4.2 will be met by using TRM Section 3.7.2 and its bases.

3) OM-4, Paragraph 1.5.6, "Snubber Maintenance or Repair," and 1.5.7, "Snubber Modification and Replacement," specify requirements for snubber repair and replacement. The submitted relief request and the TRM do not address the requirements of OM-4, Paragraphs 1.5.6, and 1.5.7. Please explain, whether and how these requirements will be met.

ENCLOSURE

4) ASME Section XI, IWF-5000 contains Section IWF-5400 “Repair/Replacement Activities.” In the relief request, the licensee is silent regarding IWF-5400. IWF-5400 states: “Repair/replacement activities performed on snubbers shall be in accordance with IWA-4000. Snubbers installed, corrected or modified by repair/replacement activities shall be examined and tested in accordance with the applicable requirements of IWF-5200 prior to return to service.” Please explain, whether and how these requirements will be met.