

March 9, 2007

EA-07-017

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

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 1, 2007, PUBLIC REGULATORY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS A PRELIMINARY WHITE FINDING AND AN APPARENT VIOLATION INVOLVING THE POTENTIAL FAILURE OF THE DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER FULL-SCALE EXERCISE CRITIQUE TO IDENTIFY A WEAKNESS ASSOCIATED WITH A RISK SIGNIFICANT PLANNING STANDARD (RSPS)

Dear Mr. Middlesworth:

On March 1, 2007, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a public Regulatory Conference at the Region III Office, located at 2443 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a preliminary White finding and an apparent violation, at Duane Arnold Energy Center, involving the potential failure of the Duane Arnold Energy Center full-scale exercise critique to identify a weakness associated with a Risk Significant planning Standard (RSPS). This issue was characterized as potentially greater than very low safety significance as documented in Inspection Report 05000331/2006009 (DRS). The inspection report, meeting notice, NRC presentation, and licensee presentation can be found in the Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) ML070650592. A list of principal NRC and licensee meeting participants can be found in the enclosure.

The NRC first described the full-scale exercise critique issue, the reasons why this issue is a performance deficiency and then explained the preliminary safety significance determination analysis. Following NRC's presentation, representatives from Duane Arnold Energy Center provided information gained following entry of the issue in the site Corrective Action Process. The licensee also presented information for the NRC to consider to assess the risk significance of this issue. This information included details regarding the scenario development process, crew performance, and the station's exercise critique process. The NRC will review this information and issue a final determination letter in the near future.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Ken Riemer, Chief  
Plant Support Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: As Stated

cc w/encl: J. Stall, Senior Vice President, Nuclear and Chief  
Nuclear Officer  
R. Helfrich, Senior Attorney  
M. Ross, Managing Attorney  
W. Webster, Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
M. Warner, Vice President, Nuclear Operations Support  
R. Kundalkar, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering  
J. Bjorseth, Site Director  
D. Curtland, Plant Manager  
S. Catron, Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Chief Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section,  
Dept. Of Homeland Security  
D. McGhee, State Liaison Officer

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Ken Riemer, Chief  
Plant Support Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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cc w/encl: J. Stall, Senior Vice President, Nuclear and Chief Nuclear Officer  
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M. Ross, Managing Attorney  
W. Webster, Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
M. Warner, Vice President, Nuclear Operations Support  
R. Kundalkar, Vice President, Nuclear Engineering  
J. Bjorseth, Site Director  
D. Curtland, Plant Manager  
S. Catron, Manager, Regulatory Affairs  
Chief Radiological Emergency Preparedness Section,  
Dept. Of Homeland Security  
D. McGhee, State Liaison Officer

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C. Evans, Enforcement Officer, RII

K. Fuller, Enforcement Officer, RIV

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G. Caputo, OI

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R. Lickus, RIII

J. Lynch, RIII

DRSIII

DRPIII

OEWEB

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NRC

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K. Riemer, Chief, Plant Support Branch  
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B. Webster, Operations Vice President  
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B. Helfrich, Corporate Counsel  
M. Davis, Emergency Preparedness/Operations  
S. Catron, Licensing Manager

Enclosure