

Central file

Iowa Electric Light and Power Company
September 20, 1979
LDR-79-210

LARRY D. ROOT
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR GENERATION

Mr. James G. Keppler, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region III
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Re: Duane Arnold Energy Center
Subject: Response to IE Bulletin 79-18
File: A-101a IE Bulletin 79-18

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter is in response to IE Bulletin No. 79-18. The attached response describes our review of the bulletin and actions we plan to initiate as a result of the review.

Very truly yours,

Larry D. Root

Larry D. Root
Assistant Vice President.

LDR/DLW/lh

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Division of Reactor Operations Inspection
Washington, D. C. 20555

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DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

Response to NRC IE Bulletin No. 79-18

Subject: Audibility Problems Encountered with Evacuation of Personnel from High-Noise Areas

Response to Action Items

1. An evaluation of the evacuation alarm system in both accessible high and low noise level areas was performed. The evaluation included a special test involving stationing of personnel in the areas during sounding of the evacuation alarm and an interview with operating personnel to determine if they had encountered any audibility problems with the plant paging system (the evacuation alarm is relayed over the plant paging system). The evaluation identified five plant areas in which the evacuation alarm is not audible and two high noise level areas having reduced audibility.
2. Additional plant paging system speakers will be installed in the five plant areas in which the evacuation alarm is not audible. For plant areas in which the audibility of the evacuation alarm is reduced, current preparedness plan implementing procedures provide adequate mechanisms for identifying any personnel who may not have heard the evacuation alarm. The procedures require that an audit be performed to verify accountability of all personnel. Any personnel not hearing the evacuation alarm would be identified at that time and appropriate actions to locate the personnel would be initiated. It should be noted that security hardware to be installed as part of the Modified Amended Security Plan implementation will expedite personnel accountability procedures in the event of an evacuation.

In the event plant circumstances necessitate a local evacuation of a certain plant area, current procedures involve only a verbal evacuation announcement over the plant paging system. In the future, in order to ensure that all affected personnel have heard the verbal announcement of a local evacuation, the announcement will be followed by an audit of the reactor building access control log.

It is anticipated that installation of the additional plant paging system speakers will be completed by December 5, 1979. Implementation of the procedures directing an audit of the reactor building access control log following the announcement of a local evacuation will be completed by November 1, 1979.

3. The evaluation of inaccessible plant areas for evacuation alarm audibility will be completed by April 1, 1980. A schedule for implementation of any applicable corrective actions will be developed at that time.