Docket No. 50-331

Iowa Electric Light and Power Company ATTN: Duane Arnold, President Security Building P. O. Box 351 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

## Gentlemen:

In our letter of Rebruary 22, 1974, we transmitted Facility Operating License No. DPR-49 authorizing operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) in accordance with the Technical Specifications attached thereto. Our letter pointed out that the Technical Specifications required specific approval by the Atomic Energy Commission before initial criticality is undertaken. This letter is to advise you that we have determined that DAEC is ready to achieve criticality and that you are hereby authorized to proceed with initial criticality.

Our determination is based on the conclusion by Regulatory Operations that the assessment of the preoperational test data, the Surveillance Test Procedures and the review of non-conformance reporting has been completed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by R. C. DeYoung

R. C. DeYoung, Assistant Director for Light Water Reactors Group 1 Directorate of Licensing

cc: Jack R. Newman, Esq.
Harold F. Reis, Esq.
Newman, Reis & Axelrad
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Director
Office for Planning and Programming
523 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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## Iowa Electric Light and Power Co.

cc: Mr. Dudley Henderson Chairman, Linn County Board of Supervisors Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

> Mr. Ed Vest Environmental Protection Agency 1735 Baltimore Avenue Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Mr. J. R. Buchanan Assistant Director Nuclear Safety Information Center Oak Ridge National Lab P. O. Box Y Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Mr. T. B. Abernathy
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Division of Technical Information Ext.
Document Management Branch
P. O. Box 62
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

bcc: A. Rosenthal, ASLAB N. H. Goodrich, ASLBP

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D. Vassallo, LWR 1-1

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