

FEB 2 5 1977

Docket No. 50-331

Iowa Electric Light & Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Duane Arnold
President
P. O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

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for encl.*

Gentlemen:

RE: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

This letter is being sent to all licensees authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor and to all applicants with applications for a license to operate a power reactor (FSAR docketed) to advise you that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has forwarded to the FEDERAL REGISTER amendments to its regulations 10 CFR Part 50, "Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities", and 10 CFR Part 73, "Physical Protection of Plants and Materials". These new regulations identify measures to be taken for the protection of nuclear power reactors against industrial sabotage. Copies of these new requirements are enclosed. Of particular interest is the adoption of a new section 10 CFR 73.55, "Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against industrial sabotage". The new regulations require that you submit an amended physical security plan within 90 days of the publication of the rule in the FEDERAL REGISTER describing how you plan to comply with the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, including schedules of implementation.

To provide additional detailed guidance on implementing the new rule, we are scheduling regional meetings to discuss the requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, to present an acceptable format and content for the required amended physical security plan and to provide preliminary acceptance criteria which the NRC staff will use to determine the acceptability of submittals. An agenda for these meetings is enclosed, including the dates and location of the meeting for each NRC Region and supplemental information related to some of the topics listed on the agenda. In order to provide a forum for effective discussion, you are requested to send no more than four representatives to the meeting. You may wish to include your A/E or security consultant within this number. Please complete the enclosed Registration Form and return it in the envelope provided.

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The Commission has under active consideration a requirement that security clearances be obtained for certain licensee employees. We will present an overview of this proposal at the meeting and will consider any comments that you wish to give.

The Commission also has under development amendments to its regulations that would require nuclear power plant licensees to develop and follow safeguards contingency plans for dealing with threats, thefts, and sabotage relating to special nuclear material and nuclear facilities. A presentation and discussion on this subject is on the meeting agenda and background information on this subject is also enclosed.

If you have any particular related topics or generic safeguards problems that you would like discussed at the meeting, please let us know. For any further information or comments, please contact James R. Miller of my staff (301/492-7014).

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ben C. Rusche, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Copy of Amended Regulations
2. Meeting Agenda
3. Registration Form and Return Envelope
4. Draft Standard Format and Content Document
5. Contingency Planning Information

cc: w/enclosures 1, 4 and 5

Mr. Robert Lowenstein, Esquire
Harold F. Reis, Esquire
Lowenstein, Newman, Reis and Axelrad
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

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426 Third Avenue, S. E.
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Gentlemen:

Included in your letters of July 27, and August 4, 1976 was a proposal (RTS-68) to revise the Technical Specifications appended to Facility Operating License DPR-49 for the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The proposed revision would change the specification on Linear Heat Generation (LHGR) to delete the power spiking penalty for 8x8 fuel. Your justification for such a change is that the power spiking penalty for 8x8 fuel is no longer required, as discussed in the General Electric Topical Report: Supplement 3, Appendix B, to NEDO-20360.

This General Electric Topical Report has not been approved by the Commission. Although the report is still under review, we anticipate that a revision will ultimately be necessary, including the basic approach to account for fuel densification. Accordingly, your request, RTS-68, can not be approved. However, a revised submission by IELP would be appropriate at such time as the Commission approves a new General Electric Topical Report on the generic application of BWR 8x8 fuel.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

George Lear, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

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cc:

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