

February 20, 1992

Docket No. 50-331

Mr. Lee Liu
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company
P. O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Dear Mr. Liu:

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SUBJECT: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SCHEDULE FOR PERFORMING CONTAINMENT
INTEGRATED LEAK RATE TESTS (TAC NO. M82359)

By letter dated June 29, 1990, the staff granted an exemption to Iowa Electric Light and Power Company (IELP) from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.6.(b), which requires that a Type A containment integrated leak rate test be conducted approximately every 18 months or during a refueling outage, whichever occurs first, until two consecutive Type A tests meet the applicable acceptance criteria. This accelerated test frequency was required due to two consecutive Type A test failures at the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) in 1985 and 1987, although the Type A test conducted in 1988 was successful. In August 1990, following work on the containment, the Type A test DAEC performed was a failure. The staff's letter of June 29, 1990 required that if the next Type A test (scheduled at that time for the 1992 refueling outage) was a failure, DAEC should submit the schedule for future Type A tests for Commission review and approval, in accordance with Section III.A.6.(a) of Appendix J.

The record at DAEC for Type A tests is not a good one, since three out of the last four have been failures. While the staff is aware that DAEC feels the reasons for those failures have either been corrected or were not predictable, the results are a matter of record. DAEC should evaluate the Type B and C test result trending program and the results of these tests in the upcoming outage with the objective of maximizing the possibility of success of the next Type A test. Should the next Type A test be a failure, the staff will not grant another exemption to the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.A.6.(b).

With the above reservations in mind, the staff has reviewed and approves the schedule IELP submitted by letter dated October 31, 1991 for future containment integrated leak rate tests.

This action closes TAC No. 82359.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Clyde Y. Shiraki, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mr. Lee Liu
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

Duane Arnold Energy Center

cc:

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