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December 7, 1982

Docket No. 50-331

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

Dear Mr. Arnold:

SUBJECT: NUREG-0737 ITEM II.B.1, REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM HIGH POINT VENTS

Re: Duane Arnold Energy Center

We have completed our review of the subject action item for your facility. Our review encompassed your previous submittals and other pertinent correspondence as referenced in the enclosed Safety Evaluation. We find that the venting capability at your facility is acceptable, and, thus, consider the subject item resolved.

Please note that our review addressed only the subject action item and should not be considered to be an evaluation of your compliance with 10 CFR 50.44. Additionally, our review did not address automatic depressurization system valve accumulator capacity, as that review is being performed under NUREG-0737 Action Item II.K.3.28.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation
2. Technical Evaluation

cc w/enclosures
See next page

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SURNAME	S. Norris	F. Apicella	D. Vassallo				
DATE	12/6/82	12/6/82	12/6/82				

Mr. Duane Arnold
Iowa Electric Light & Power Company

cc:

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Harold F. Reis, Esquire
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

FOR NUREG-0737, ITEM II.B.1

REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM HIGH POINT VENTS

DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

1.0 Introduction

NUREG-0737, Item II.B.1, "Reactor Coolant System Vents" states that each licensee shall install reactor coolant system (RCS) vents to vent non-condensable gases which may inhibit core cooling during natural circulation. By submittals as referenced in the enclosed Technical Evaluation Report (TER), the licensee endorsed the BWR Owner's Group position and provided certain, additional plant-specific information.

2.0 Evaluation

Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, our contractor for this item, has reviewed the design of existing systems at Duane Arnold Energy Center and concluded that the existing systems are sufficient to vent noncondensable gases from the RCS and meet the requirements of NUREG-0737 Item II.B.1. We have reviewed the TER and the existing systems and conclude that these systems will vent, or are available to vent, the RCS.

Two confirmatory items were noted by our contractor in its TER. Resolution of these items is discussed in the following paragraphs.

Since operator responses to indications of inadequate core cooling, such as low core water level, are the same for both steam and non-condensable gases, we conclude that explicit instructions in the operating procedures for venting non-condensable gases are not necessary.

The existing technical specifications for the Automatic Depressurization System (ADS) valves require that the valves be operable as a condition for RCS pressurization. The ADS valve accumulator capacity is currently under review (TMI Action Plan Item II.K.3.28) to verify that each valve may be opened at least 5 times. Pending satisfactory resolution of Item II.K.3.28, we find the existing technical specifications on ADS valve operability sufficient to cover the use of ADS valves as vents.

Therefore, based on our contractor's recommendation that the venting capability be found acceptable with satisfactory resolution of the confirmatory items described in the TER, and our review, as described above, we find the Duane Arnold Energy Center venting capability acceptable.

Dated:

Principal Contributors: G. Alberthal