

JAN 7 1974

Docket No. 50-331

EVALUATION OF REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE FOR THE DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

Summary

On November 5, 1973, the Iowa Electric Light and Power Company filed a request for an extension of the completion date for the construction of the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The requested extension of the completion date for construction was from the current date of January 1, 1974 to June 1, 1974. The major factors identified by the applicant as contributors to the schedule slippage are as follows:

1. The project scope was increased subsequent to issuance of the construction permit to include the addition of certain major features, principally an augmented off-gas system and restraints to prevent whipping of large high energy pipes in the event of pipe rupture;
2. Recent ASME code changes have intensified quality assurance activities and have caused delays in the manufacture and delivery of certain components; and
3. Shortages of essential craft personnel, particularly qualified pipe fitter welders, have delayed certain critical path construction activities.

Although the applicant states that these delays have been essentially absorbed by the original schedule, the construction schedule has been delayed by these factors beyond the January 1, 1974 completion date. Assuming that construction proceeds as projected, we do not believe that it is likely to be completed before February 1, 1974. Moreover, our experience indicates that unforeseen last minute developments such as malfunction of components, and shortages of required craft skills often arise and delay completion of construction. Since the margin for such contingencies originally included in the schedule has been exhausted, we believe that an extension of the construction permit an additional month to March 1, 1974 is warranted.

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The staff has reviewed the applicant's November 5, 1973, request, which discusses the above factors, and finds that although they do not constitute good cause for granting the requested extension to June 1, 1974, good cause does exist for granting an extension to March 1, 1974.

The Regulatory staff finds that prior public notice of an order authorizing the requested extension is not required since the action does not involve significant hazard considerations, and that good cause exists for the issuance of an order extending the completion of construction date for the Duane Arnold Energy Center to March 1, 1974.

Accordingly, issuance of an order extending the latest completion date for construction of the Duane Arnold Energy Center as presently set forth in Construction Permit No. CPPR-70, to March 1, 1974, should be authorized. The order should be effective on the date of issuance.

Original signed by
Gerald Owsley

G. F. Owsley
LWR 1-2
Directorate of Licensing

Original signed by
Walter Butler

W. R. Butler, Chief
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