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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REGION III 799 ROOSEVELT ROAD GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137 DCD/DCAS

OCT 3 0 1992

Docket No. 50-331

Iowa Electric Light and Power Company ATTN: Mr. Lee Liu Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

IE Towers P. O. Box 351 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Dear Mr. Liu:

Enclosed for your review, before our scheduled meeting of November 12, 1992, is the Initial SALP 10 Report for the Duane Arnold Energy Center, covering the period April 1, 1991, through August 31, 1992.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board Assessment and concur with their ratings. It is my view that your conduct of nuclear activities in connection with the Duane Arnold facility was good and demonstrated a strong and conservative approach to plant operations. This assessment identified improvements in the general management oversight of the plant, in the performance of plant operation, and in the adequacy of staffing. As a result, the SALP Board rated the functional area of Emergency Preparedness a Category 1 and rated all of the other areas as a Category 2 rating. This reflects an improved rating from the previous assessment period in both the Engineering and Technical Support and Safety Assessment and Quality Verification functional areas; these changes along with the improving trend identified in the Operations area reflect a positive movement in performance at the plant. For instance, improvements in the control of outages, in the reduction of scrams, and management's effectiveness in promoting an environment conducive to quality work and sense of ownership were noted.

However, there are some problems that remain which demonstrate the need for continued management attention. For instance, the resolution of long term problems, broader evaluation of events to prevent similar occurrences, timely operability evaluations, and the effective prioritization of engineering resources appear to be areas warranting improvement.

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Iowa Electric Light and Power Company

At the SALP meeting, you should be prepared to discuss our assessments and any plans you have to improve performance. The meeting is intended to be a candid dialogue wherein any comments you may have regarding our report are discussed. Additionally, you may provide written comments within 30 days after the meeting. Your comments, a summary of our meeting, and my disposition of your comments will be issued as the Final SALP Report.

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In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the Initial SALP Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the Initial SALP Report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely, Carl & Papercello for.

A. Bert Davis Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Initial SALP 10 Report No. 50-331/92001

cc w/enclosure:

D. Wilson, Plant

Superintendent - Nuclear K. Young, Manager, Nuclear Licensing

DCD/DCB (RIDS)

OC/LFDCB

Stephen Brown, lowa Dept. of Commerce Licensing Project Mgr., NRR INPO

The Chairman K. C. Rogers, Commissioner J. R. Curtiss, Commissioner F. J. Remick, Commissioner

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