



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

TELEPHONE
(312) 858-2660

July 26, 1973

Iowa Electric Light and Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Charles W. Sandford
Vice President, Engineering
Security Building
P. O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

Docket No. 50-331

Gentlemen:

We have received information which indicates that the control rods to be used in the Duane Arnold reactor may contain absorber tubes installed in an inverted position. If the reactor core were to be loaded with control rods that contain inverted absorber tubes, one possible effect would be a reduction in the reactivity shutdown margin of the reactor. To resolve any questions regarding this matter and to provide assurance that required safety margins will be met and maintained, you are requested to conduct appropriate tests to verify that all control rods, including spares, which are to be used in the Duane Arnold reactor have been properly assembled. These tests must be completed and the proper assembly of all control rods must be verified before an operating license will be issued for your facility.

Upon completion of tests performed to verify the proper assembly of control rods, you are requested to report to this office promptly, by telephone, the results of those tests. In addition, within 10 days of completion of the tests, you are requested to submit a written report to this office describing the test methods used, the reliability of the test, the test results, and any planned, corrective action.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely yours,

bcc: RO Chief, FS&EB
RO:HQ (4)
Licensing (4)
DR Central Files
RO Files
Regions I & II
PDR
Local PDR
NSIC
DTIE
OGC, Beth, P-506A

Boyce H. Grier
Boyce H. Grier
Regional Director

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