

7/27/76

Docket No. 50-331

Iowa Electric Light & Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Duane Arnold
President
Security Building
P. O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Gentlemen:

RE: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

A recent assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Nuclear Plant Reliability Data System (NPRDS) shows varying degrees of participation by nuclear power plant licensees. In general, however, it appears that this program is of low priority interest to utilities.

Development of this data system was initiated in 1969; it is sponsored by ANSI Subcommittee N18-20 and it has been in formal operation since July 1974. The AEC and more recently the NRC has actively endorsed and supported the development and implementation of this voluntary data reporting system. The data obtained on safety-related components and systems from the NPRDS should be of marked interest to the entire nuclear industry. Such data could provide a baseline for technological improvements, improved plant availability, better-founded surveillance test schedules, enhanced maintenance programs and could be the basis for relaxing some licensing requirements. However, if participation continues at its current uneven rate, it will be many years before the data bank can be effectively utilized.

We prefer that the system be supported voluntarily by the industry, but we will consider making participation mandatory if greater progress is not made. Therefore, if your company is not one of the few that is already a fully participating member of the NPRDS, we want to urge you to have it become one since your full participation is needed to make the NPRDS an effective vehicle for data collection.

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I request that you review your company's participation to date, and if you find insufficient effort being expended, suggest that you direct the commitment of personnel or funds to correct that deficiency. I would appreciate hearing from you on this matter and specifically whether and, if so, when, your company will become a full participating member of NPRDS.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Ben C. Rusche

Ben C. Rusche, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Jack R. Newman, Esquire
Harold F. Reis, Esquire
Lowenstein, Newman, Reis and Axelrad
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