

November 28, 1995

Mr. Lee Liu
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer
IES Utilities Inc.
Post Office Box 351
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

SUBJECT: CORRECTION OF MISSTATEMENT BY THE STAFF IN A MEETING SUMMARY
REGARDING CARBON STEEL REACTOR VESSEL FLAWS

Dear Mr. Liu:

By letter dated November 2, 1995, IES Utilities (the licensee) requested that the NRC correct a statement it made in a summary of a July 18, 1995 meeting between the staff and representatives of the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP). In the meeting summary, the staff erroneously indicated that significant service-induced flaws had been observed in the Duane Arnold reactor vessel. NUREG-0531 contains a description of the flaws that were discovered in 1978 at Duane Arnold. The NUREG indicates that the flaws were not in the carbon steel reactor vessel, but were in the Inconel 600 safe ends that are attached to the reactor vessel inlet nozzles. In its letter dated November 2, 1995, the licensee indicated this cracking was due to a mechanical notch that was machined into the safe end during its original fabrication. The notch provided a significant stress riser and provided a place for intergranular stress corrosion cracking. The safe ends were replaced with a newer design. The staff regrets its error.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
Glenn B. Kelly, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

cc: See next page

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Mr. Lee Liu
IES Utilities Inc.

Duane Arnold Energy Center

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