

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

May 7, 1996

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER (DAEC) - RELIEF OF IN SITU ECP
MEASUREMENT DURING FUEL CYCLE 14 (M94129)

Dear Mr. Liu:

By letter dated October 31, 1995, IES Utilities Inc. (IES) submitted a request that NRC eliminate the requirement of in situ verification of electrochemical corrosion potential (ECP) for each fuel cycle, as imposed by the staff's safety evaluation (SE) dated January 24, 1995, regarding reduced IGSCC inspection of recirculation piping. Subsequent to this letter, on February 19, 1996, IES revised its submittal to request that the in situ calibration requirement be eliminated for fuel cycle 14 only, while generic resolution is sought by the staff with the BWR Owners Group.

The staff has reviewed your submittals. The staff's review, in conjunction with a review of information provided in the licensee's submittals regarding the adequacy of the DAEC hydrogen water chemistry program dated May 28, 1993, May 18, 1994, and July 15, 1995, concluded there was sufficient justification for DAEC to postpone the recalibration for fuel cycle 14. Currently, the staff is working with the BWR Owners Group (BWROG) to determine an acceptable frequency for recalibration of external ECP measurements. Therefore, the staff finds IES's request in the February 19, 1996, letter for the postponement of recalibration of ECP measurements to be acceptable and Duane Arnold does not have to calibrate its external ECP measurements against the in situ ECP measurements for fuel cycle 14.

In accordance with the staff's safety evaluation dated January 24, 1995, regarding the reduced IGSCC inspection due to implementation of hydrogen water chemistry (HWC), the recirculation piping system at DAEC can be inspected at a reduced schedule provided the average availability of HWC in cycles 12 and 13 meet the staff's criteria set forth in the referenced safety evaluation.

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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