

**From:** Wall, Scott  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** Davis, J.Michael  
**Cc:** Laura Swenzinski (Laura.Swenzinski@nexteraenergy.com); Chawla, Mahesh  
**Subject:** Duane Arnold Energy Center – Acceptance of Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (EPID No. L-2020-LLL-0005)

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF POST SHUTDOWN DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES REPORT (EPID L-2020-LLL-0005)**

By letter dated April 2, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20094F603), NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC (NEDA), on behalf of itself and Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, submitted a Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report (PSDAR) for Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). By letter dated January 18, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19023A196), NEDA notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to permanently cease power operations at DAEC in the fourth quarter of 2020. NEDA intends to permanently remove the fuel from the reactor vessel approximately 30 days after ceasing permanent power operations. NEDA submitted the PSDAR pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), Section 50.82(a)(4). NEDA developed the DAEC PSDAR using the Regulatory Guide 1.185, Revision 1, "Standard Format and Content for Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report" (ADAMS Accession No. ML13140A038). In accordance with 10 CFR 50.82(a)(5), "Licensees shall not perform any major decommissioning activities, as defined in § 50.2, until 90 days after the NRC has received the licensee's PSDAR submittal and until certifications of permanent cessation of operations and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessel, as required under § 50.82(a)(1), have been submitted."

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this license transfer and exemption request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with 10 CFR 50.82(a)(4)(i), the PSDAR must contain a description of the planned decommissioning activities along with a schedule for their accomplishment, a discussion that provides the reasons for concluding that the environmental impacts associated with site-specific decommissioning activities will be bounded by appropriate previously issued environmental impact statements, and a site-specific decommissioning cost estimate, including the projected cost of managing irradiated fuel.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed PSDAR in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately **500 hours** to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by **April 2021**. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, and unanticipated addition of scope to the review. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2855 or e-mail at [Scott.Wall@nrc.gov](mailto:Scott.Wall@nrc.gov).

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