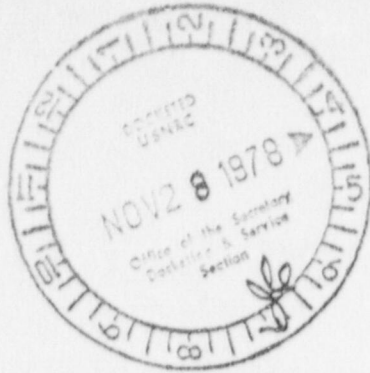


50-331



717 Iowa Ave. #4
Iowa City, IA. 52240
21 November 1978

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

I am writing to you in connection with the closing of the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Palo, Iowa. The local press has reported that a leak was discovered in a coolant pipe after an electrical malfunction accidentally shut down the reactor. Upon inspection all eight of the coolant pipes were found to be cracked to some degree. This was initially blamed on faulty work and hasty repairs made by the contractor on the pipe joints ("safe ends"). Further testing on two safe ends revealed, however, that the cracks originated elsewhere in the pipe and only later spread to the faulty joints.

If this is true, I request that you initiate a full investigation of the pipe cracking and withhold the station's operating permit until the cause of the cracking has been determined and complete and lasting measures have been taken to prevent further problems. In addition, I recommend the institution of more efficient inspection and monitoring procedures at Duane Arnold. The discovery of this leak was an accident. If there had been no electrical problem causing a shut down, the leak might have led to a meltdown. I live thirty miles from the Duane Arnold plant. Under certain wind conditions, a meltdown at Palo could destroy my town and possibly kill me and my loved ones. I do not want the Duane Arnold Center to operate unless I can be fully confident that this will never happen. I am looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Kiegel

Joseph A. Kiegel

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