

November 24, 1997

Mr. Lee Liu  
Chairman of the Board  
and Chief Executive Officer  
IES Utilities Inc.  
200 First Street, SE  
P.O. Box 351  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0351

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER - LETTER TO NUCLEAR ENERGY  
INSTITUTE ON IMPROVED STANDARD TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS  
FORMAT

Dear Mr. Liu:

On October 29, 1997, the NRC sent a letter to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) on H.B. Robinson's recent improved Standard Technical Specifications (STS) conversion license amendment. A copy of the NEI letter is enclosed for your information and consideration in your efforts to convert to the improved STS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3028.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

Docket No. 50-331

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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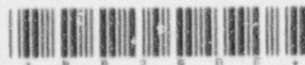
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Lee Liu  
IES Utilities Inc.

Duane Arnold Energy Center

cc:

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Des Moines, IA 50319





UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 29, 1997

Mr. James Davis  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1775 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Davis:

On October 24, 1997, the staff issued a license amendment for the H.B. Robinson 2 conversion to the improved Standard Technical Specifications (STS). This is the 12th conversion to the improved STS, which will result in 16 units operating with these technical specifications. The Robinson conversion is unique in that it served as a pilot for the development by NRC of a new format for the safety evaluation (SE) which should result in staff resource savings and more timely reviews, while at the same time providing a clearer and more succinct product. In addition, the Robinson conversion amendment included a new license condition to ensure that surveillance schedules are not perturbed by the conversion to the improved STS. This amendment also contains a licensee condition to enforce licensee commitments to relocate items removed from the technical specifications to the appropriate licensee-controlled documents. This latter license condition is similar to one that is now being used by the staff for other relocations.

A key feature of the revised SE is a series of tables containing summary descriptions and categories of the changes to the technical specifications as a result of the conversion. It is our expectation that licensees will provide these tables to the staff late in the review process as the staff starts to write the SE. No change in the format of the initial submittal is being requested. However, licensees should be aware of this expectation so that they can ensure that their data bases and word processing can easily generate these tables from existing submittal material at the appropriate point in time. We request that you make the availability of this amendment and revised SE format widely known throughout the industry and include a reference to it in your planned update to NEI 96-06.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William D. Beckner".

William D. Beckner, Chief  
Technical Specifications Branch  
Associate Director for Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Enclosure