



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

July 16, 1999

Mr. John F. Franz, Jr.  
Vice President, Nuclear  
Alliant Tower  
200 First Street SE  
P. O. Box 351  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0351

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD INSPECTION REPORT 50-331/99007(DRP)

Dear Mr. Franz:

This refers to the inspection conducted on May 26 through July 7, 1999, at the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) facility. The NRC conducted a routine safety inspection. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

During this 6-week inspection period, your conduct of activities at the DAEC facility was characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and careful radiological work controls. Specifically, we observed control room operators perform an error-free shutdown to allow repair of shorted conductors in a primary containment electrical penetration. In addition, we observed your maintenance and engineering staffs effectively identify and repair the shorted conductors. However, an inadequate engineering evaluation for the fire pump test return line throttle valve modification resulted in valve plugging and subsequently rendered the diesel driven fire pump inoperable.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. One violation was for the failure of operations personnel to enter the appropriate Technical Specification limiting condition for operation when a reactor recirculation pump mini-purge isolation valve failed to close and was declared inoperable. The second violation is for failing to meet Technical Specification operability requirements for the "A" control building chiller system. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCV), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violations or severity level of the NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

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In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ M. N. Leach

Melvyn N. Leach, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch 2

Docket No. 50-331  
License No. DPR-49

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-331/99007(DRP)

cc w/encl: E. Protsch, Executive Vice President -  
Energy Delivery, Alliant;  
President, IES Utilities, Inc.  
G. Van Middlesworth, Plant Manager  
K. Peveler, Manager, Regulatory Performance  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairperson, Iowa Utilities Board

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