

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

IOWA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
CENTRAL IOWA POWER COOPERATIVE
CORN BELT POWER COOPERATIVE

DOCKET NO. 50-331ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of exemptions from certain requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 to Iowa Electric Light and Power Company (IELP/the licensee) for the Duane Arnold Energy Center located at the licensee's site in Linn County, Iowa.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed action would grant exemptions from certain requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 which relate to fire protection features for ensuring that systems and associated circuits used to achieve and maintain safe shutdown are free of fire damage. The exemptions are technical since the licensee must demonstrate that fire protection configurations meet the specific requirements of Section III.G or that alternate fire protection configurations can be justified by an acceptable fire hazard analysis.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions are needed because the features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing and proposed fire protection at the plant for these items are the most practical method for meeting

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the intent of Appendix R, and literal compliance would not enhance significantly the fire protection capability at Duane Arnold.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemptions will provide a degree of fire protection such that there is no increase in the risk of fires at Duane Arnold. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased and the post-fire radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor do the proposed exemptions otherwise affect plant radiological effluents. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemptions involve features located entirely within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They do not affect plant nonradiological effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemptions.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemptions, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the exemptions would be to not grant the exemptions requested by the licensee from the requirements of Appendix R. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

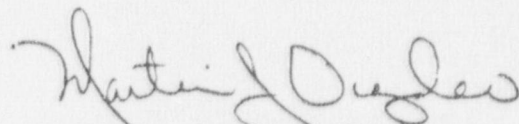
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemptions. Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission's staff concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letters dated September 28, 1984, October 31, 1984, and October 21, 1986. These letters are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, 500 First Street, S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 2nd day of October 1987

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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Project Directorate III-1
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