



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

October 13, 2020

Mr. Dean Curtland  
Director of Site Operations  
NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC  
3277 DAEC Road  
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR DUANE ARNOLD  
ENERGY CENTER AND COMMENCEMENT OF DECOMMISSIONING  
INSPECTION PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Curtland:

This letter is to inform you that oversight activities by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) will no longer be performed in accordance with our operating power reactor inspection program. The NRC's oversight of your future activities at the DAEC will be conducted in accordance with our decommissioning power reactor inspection program.

On January 18, 2019, NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC, notified the NRC of their intent to permanently shut down DAEC (ADAMS Accession Number: ML19023A196) and updated their notification on March 2, 2020 (ML20062E489), and on August 27, 2020 (ML20240A067). On October 12, 2020, NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC, certified cessation of power operations and the permanent removal of fuel from the DAEC reactor vessel (ML20286A317). The NRC will no longer use Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," IMC 0608, "Performance Indicator Program," and IMC 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program," when conducting oversight activities and assessing site performance. Therefore, it is also no longer necessary to report Reactor Oversight Process performance indicator data for DAEC. The results of inspection activities completed under IMC 2515 will be provided in future correspondence. Although the inspection program for NRC oversight at your facility has changed, all license commitments remain in effect until altered by formal action from the NRC.

The NRC's oversight of your licensed activities as you progress through decommissioning will be conducted under the provisions in IMC 2561, "Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program." The objectives of the decommissioning inspection program are to verify that decommissioning activities are being conducted safely, that spent fuel is safely being stored and protected, and that site operations and license termination activities are in conformance with applicable regulatory requirements, licensee commitments, and management controls.

As defined in IMC 2561, DAEC is currently in the "Post-Operation Transition Phase" of decommissioning and the inspections as detailed in IMC 2561, Appendix A, "Core Inspection Procedures," for that phase will be conducted at your facility. In addition, the inspection

procedures listed in IMC 2561, Appendix B, "Discretionary Procedures for Decommissioning Power Reactors," could be performed based on site activities and conditions.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRCs "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 630-829-9733 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

David E. Hills, Chief  
Materials Control, ISFSI, and  
Decommissioning Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

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Letter to D. Curtland from D. Hills dated October 13, 2020.

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