



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2056 WESTINGS AVENUE, SUITE 400
NAPERVILLE, IL 60563-2657

January 12, 2026

Ray Wheaton
Director of Restart Operations
NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER – RESTART INSPECTION
REPORT 05000331/2025003

Dear Ray Wheaton:

On December 10, 2025, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed inspections at Duane Arnold Energy Center. The enclosed inspection report documents these inspection results, which the inspectors discussed on January 6, 2026, with you and other members of your staff.

No violations of more than minor significance were identified during this inspection.

On August 27, 2020, Duane Arnold ceased permanent power operations as detailed in the letter from NextEra to the NRC, “Certification of Permanent Cessation of Power Operations,” (Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML20240A067](#)). On October 12, 2020, NextEra removed all fuel from the reactor, as detailed in the letter from NextEra to the NRC, “Certification of Permanent Removal of Fuel from the Reactor Vessel for Duane Arnold Energy Center,” (ADAMS Accession No. [ML20286A317](#)). On January 23, 2025, NextEra submitted a letter to the NRC requesting exemptions from certain portions of the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.82(a)(2) to pursue the potential reauthorization of power operations at Duane Arnold (ADAMS Accession No. [ML25023A270](#)). The NRC’s initial acceptance to review Duane Arnold’s request for exemptions was documented in ADAMS at Accession No. [ML25056A149](#) on February 27, 2025.

This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "April M. Nguyen".

Signed by Nguyen, April
on 01/12/26

April M. Nguyen, Lead
Palisades Restart Team
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000331
License No.: DPR-49

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/ encl: Distribution via LISTSERV®

Letter to Ray Wheaton from April M. Nguyen dated January 12, 2026.

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER – POTENTIAL RESTART
INSPECTION REPORT 05000331/2025003

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**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Inspection Report**

Docket Number: 05000331

License Number: DPR-49

Report Number: 05000331/2025003

Enterprise Identifier: I-2025-003-0074

Licensee: NextEra

Facility: Duane Arnold Energy Center

Location: Palo, IA

Inspection Dates: December 8 to December 10, 2025

Inspectors: V. Myers, Senior Health Physicist

Approved By: April M. Nguyen, Lead
Palisades Restart Team
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

SUMMARY

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) performed inspections of the licensee's activities to verify radiation safety activities were appropriately performed.

List of Violations

No violations of more than minor significance were identified.

Additional Tracking Items

None.

PLANT STATUS

The Duane Arnold Energy Center ceased power operations and subsequently removed all fuel from the reactor, as certified in a letter to the NRC on October 12, 2020. On January 23, 2025, NextEra submitted a letter to the NRC requesting exemptions from certain portions of the requirements of 10 CFR 50.82(a)(2) to pursue the potential reauthorization of power operations. The NRC is conducting inspections to evaluate and assess the licensee's activities for potential restoration to an operational status.

INSPECTION SCOPES

Inspections were conducted using the appropriate portions of the referenced inspection procedures (IPs) in effect at the beginning of the inspection unless otherwise noted. Currently approved IPs with their attached revision histories are located on the public website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/insp-manual/inspection-procedure/index.html>.

RADIATION SAFETY CORNERSTONE

From December 8 through 10, 2025, the inspectors performed on-site inspection activities at the facility. These activities included walkthroughs of the reactor building, radioactive waste building, and turbine building. The inspectors observed high radiation area postings and controls, contamination area boundary postings and controls, and controls associated with clean areas established in the turbine building. The inspectors interviewed maintenance personnel working to restore heating for winterization as well as performing maintenance activities on various instrumentation for the liquid radioactive waste processing system to return portions of the system to operation for upcoming work activities. The inspectors also reviewed records associated with previously performed inspection activities the site conducted in the two condensate storage tanks. This included review of the radiation work permits, radiological risk assessment and planning records, and radiological surveys that were performed. In addition, the inspectors reviewed records associated with a radioactive material shipment to evaluate package characterization, shipping manifest preparation, and transport vehicle preparation.

The inspectors conducted these reviews using IP 71124.01, "Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls," and 71124.08, "Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation," as applicable.

INSPECTION RESULTS

No violations of more than minor significance were identified.

EXIT MEETINGS AND DEBRIEFS

The inspectors verified that no proprietary information was retained or documented in this report.

- On January 6, 2026, the inspectors presented the inspection results to Ray Wheaton, Director of Restart Operations, and other members of the licensee staff.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Inspection Procedure	Type	Designation	Description or Title	Revision or Date
71124.01	Miscellaneous	HP-55	Radiological Work Screening Form for Condensate Storage Tank Inspections	08/27/2025
	Radiation Surveys	PDA-M-20250814-1	Condensate Storage Tanks Pre-Job Survey	08/14/2025
		PDA-M-20250904-1	Condensate Storage Tank 1T-5A Post Cleaning Survey	09/04/2025
		PDA-M-20250909-1	Condensate Storage Tank 1T-5B Post Cleaning Survey	09/09/2025
	Radiation Work Permits (RWPs)	25-011	Tank Inspections, Cleaning, Maintenance and Support	00
	Shipping Records	25-04	SCO-II Shipment of Inspection Tools	07/23/2025
71124.08	Procedures	RP-AA-108-1002	Shipment of Radioactive Material	18
	Shipping Records	25-04	Shipping Package for SCO-II shipment 25-04	07/23/2025