



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

July 30, 2026

Patty Riesberg
Bureau Chief
Iowa Department of Health and
Human Services
Bureau of Radiological Health
Lucas Office Bldg., 5th Floor
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT REGARDING THE
PROPOSED REAUTHORIZATION OF POWER OPERATIONS FOR DUANE
ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER UNDER RENEWED FACILITY LICENSE NO.
DPR-49 (EPID NUMBER: L-2025-LNE-0009) (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-331)

Dear Patty Riesberg:

NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC (NEDA) submitted a series of licensing and regulatory requests that are necessary to reauthorize power operations at the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) through February 21, 2034, the end of the current operating license term under DAEC's Renewed Facility License No. DPR-49.

By letter dated February 6, 2026, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML26030A013](#)), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) notified your office that it was initiating an environmental review for the licensing and regulatory requests submitted by NEDA that, if approved, would collectively support reauthorizing power operations at DAEC. These requests are the proposed actions before the NRC and include an exemption request and three license amendment requests. The NRC is the lead Federal agency for the environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and for Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, with the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Dominance Financing serving as a cooperating agency on the environmental review and Section 106 consultation.

The NRC staff has completed a draft environmental assessment (EA) and draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI), *"Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Duane Arnold Energy Center Reauthorization of Power Operations Project."* The ADAMS accession number for the draft EA and draft FONSI is [ML26159A001](#). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The draft EA and FONSI are also available on the NRC's website at <https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactors/duan>.

The NRC staff has also prepared a *Federal Register Notice* (FRN) to advise the public that the draft EA and FONSI are publicly available. The FRN is scheduled for publication on August 3, 2026.

This draft EA describes the environmental review conducted by the NRC for the proposed Federal actions associated with the potential reauthorization of power operations at DAEC through February 21, 2034. As stated in Chapter 5 of the EA, the staff's draft conclusion is that the environmental impacts of the proposed Federal actions would be not significant for any potentially affected resource area and would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The NRC is conducting a 30-day comment period on the draft EA and FONSI, which ends on September 2, 2026. Comments can be submitted by the following methods:

1. Emailing DAECRestartEnvironmental@nrc.gov;
2. Going to <https://regulations.gov> and searching for Docket ID NRC-2026-1719; or
3. Mailing comments to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop: TWFN-5-A85, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

After consideration of public comments received, the staff will prepare a final EA and FONSI unless it is determined that the proposed Federal actions would have a significant impact on the human environment, in which case the staff would proceed to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Should you have any questions concerning the staff's environmental review, please contact Senior Environmental Project Manager, Kim Conway, by phone at 301-415-1335 or via email at Kimberly.Conway@nrc.gov, or Senior Environmental Project Manager, Kevin Folk, by phone at 301-415-6944 or via email at Kevin.Folk@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Kim Conway on 07/30/2026

Kim Conway
Senior Environmental Project Manager
Division of Licensing Projects II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-331

cc: GovDelivery

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