



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 24, 1999

Mr. David Wilson
Vice President, Nuclear
Alliant Tower
200 First Street SE
P. O. Box 351
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0351

SUBJECT: DUANE ARNOLD INSPECTION REPORT 50-331/99012(DRP)

Dear Mr. Wilson,

This refers to the inspection conducted on October 1 through November 10, 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 prior to the refueling outage. We noted a conservative response by operations management during the shutdown for the refueling outage to defer main turbine testing until the start-up. This was due to a conflict in the surveillance test and shutdown procedures. There was improved performance of maintenance and operations activities during the initial portion of the current refueling outage compared to the previous outage. To date, there have been only minor human performance issues. We observed frequent management presence in the plant and plant workers taking ownership of jobs, directly overseeing work done by contract personnel.

However, based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. One violation was for the failure to update procedures to agree with your Improved Technical Specifications. The second violation was for the failure of maintenance workers to ensure there was a health physics technician present prior to breaching a contaminated system. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Section VII.B.1.a of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of these 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.

PDR A Docic

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In accordance with 10 CFR 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. Leach

Melvyn N. Leach, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-331/99012(DRP)

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

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** By telecon OTW*

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