



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

September 4, 2012

Mr. Richard L. Anderson
Vice President
NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC
3277 DAEC Road
Palo, IA 52324-9785

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On August 7, 2012, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Duane Arnold Energy Center, Unit 1. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The assessment reflects the integration of the Security Cornerstone into Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

The NRC determined the performance at Duane Arnold, Unit 1, during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the Decision Making component of the Human Performance cross-cutting area. Specifically, four findings were identified with the cross-cutting aspect of H.1(a). The NRC determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) associated with H.1(a) does not exist because the NRC does not have a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme. The NRC reviewed a root cause evaluation completed by your staff on May 21, 2012, to review the cross-cutting theme. The NRC also reviewed the root cause evaluation corrective actions in place or in progress and planned effectiveness reviews for the corrective actions and did not identify any deficiencies. Additionally, the NRC has not identified any concerns related to the progress of the corrective actions for the theme implemented on June 1, 2012. The NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing the theme until the theme criteria are no longer met.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Inspections planned include Inspection Procedure (IP) 71003, "Post Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal," and IP 71152B, "Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution." Also planned are Post-Fukushima Temporary Instructions (TI) 2515/187, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns," and TI 2515/188, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns." Routine inspections performed

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by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

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

Please contact me at (630) 829-9703 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Ring, Chief
Branch 1
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Inspection Plan

cc: w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

R. Anderson

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Letter to R. Anderson from M. Ring dated September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER

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Duane Arnold
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		TI-187 - TI-187 FLOODING WALKDOWN		2
07/01/2012	12/30/2012	IP 2515/187	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	
		TI-188 - TI-188 SEISMIC WALKDOWN		2
07/02/2012	12/31/2012	IP 2515/187	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY - OPS/MAINT/RP ET ALL		2
08/31/2012	09/30/2012	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
10/08/2012	10/19/2012	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
		RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECT 71003 - PHASE 1		2
10/08/2012	11/02/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		2
10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
10/15/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
01/14/2013	01/18/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
01/14/2013	01/18/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
		BI PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		4
02/25/2013	03/15/2013	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		TI INSP - TI 182 BURIED CABLE PHASE 2		2
03/04/2013	03/08/2013	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
		OL PREP - DUANE ARNOLD INIT PREP 03/2013		3
03/18/2013	03/22/2013	W90286	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2013 MAR-APR - DUANE ARNOLD	
		OL EXAM - DUANE ARNOLD INIT EXAM 04/2013		3
04/08/2013	04/12/2013	W90286	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2013 MAR-APR - DUANE ARNOLD	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/15/2013	04/19/2013	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
		BI EPR - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
06/24/2013	06/28/2013	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
06/24/2013	06/28/2013	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
06/24/2013	06/28/2013	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
06/24/2013	06/28/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		BI MODS - TRIENNIAL PERM MODS/50.59		1
09/02/2013	09/20/2013	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	

Duane Arnold
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI OLRQ - REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
09/23/2013	09/27/2013	IP 7111111A	Licensed Operator Requalification Program - Annual Review	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
10/01/2013	11/30/2013	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
09/23/2013	09/27/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
09/23/2013	09/27/2013	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
09/23/2013	09/27/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
09/23/2013	09/27/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		RENEWAL - LR 71003 - PHASE 2 (DATE INFLEXIBLE)		6
11/04/2013	11/22/2013	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	