



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. 10-159

September 8, 2010

NRC ISSUES FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued its final safety evaluation report (SER) for the proposed renewal of the operating license for the Duane Arnold Energy Center and concluded that there are no open items that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

The report documents the results of the NRC staff's review of the license renewal application and site audits of the plant's aging management programs to address the safety of plant operations during the period of extended operation. Overall, the results show that the applicant has identified actions that have been or will be taken to manage the effects of aging in the appropriate safety systems, structures and components of the plant and that their functions will be maintained during the period of extended operation.

Issuing the final SER is a significant milestone in the license renewal review process. This process proceeds along two tracks – one for review of safety issues and another for environmental issues. The SER marks the completion of the NRC staff's safety review that is published and subsequently reviewed and publicly discussed by the agency's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). The staff is in the process of reviewing the environmental part of the Duane Arnold plant's license renewal application. That review must be completed before a final decision is made on the renewal.

The SER and the license renewal application have been provided to the ACRS, an independent body of experts that advises the Commission on reactor safety matters. The ACRS will discuss the SER during its October meeting, details of which will be posted on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2010/>. The ACRS will later issue a letter discussing the results of its review.

NextEra Energy Duane Arnold submitted an application to the NRC in October 2008 to extend the Duane Arnold license by 20 years. The plant, is located about 10 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The current 40-year operating license for Duane Arnold is due to expire on Feb. 21, 2014.

In a letter dated September 3, 2010, Melanie Galloway, Deputy Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's Division of License Renewal, provided NextEra Energy with the SER. The SER will be available on the NRC's website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/duane-arnold-energy-center.html>.

Documents related to Duane Arnold are also located at the Hiawatha Public Library, 150 W. Willman St., in Hiawatha, Iowa.

Additional information concerning license renewal in general and the Duane Arnold application in particular can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/license-renewal-bg.html> and <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html> respectively.

###

News releases are available through a free *listserv* subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Website.