U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Region III Office of Public Affairs
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

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NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH ALLIANT UTILITIES OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE
AT DUANE ARNOLD NUCLEAR PLANT

        The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet Thursday, July 15, with Alliant
Utilities officials to discuss the recent Plant Performance Review of the Duane Arnold Energy
Center (DAEC). The plant is located at Palo, Iowa.

        The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the plant's training center, 3277 DAEC Road,
Palo. The meeting is open to public observation. NRC officials will be available after the
meeting for questions and comments from members of the public and the news media.

        [The Plant Performance Review assessment of Duane Arnold was previously covered in
News Announcement RIII-99-10, issued on March 31.]

        In a March 26 letter to Alliant Utilities, which operates the plant, Geoffrey Grant, Division
Director in the NRC's Region III Office, said, "Overall, DAEC performance was acceptable."

        The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region III
Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr. The review
covered the time period from September 28, 1997, through January 31.

        NRC reviews the safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant
in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant
performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

        Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is using to monitor nuclear
power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the
Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment
program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months. A new
inspection and assessment program is being developed for use next year.

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