

(i) Additional soil and rock shall be placed at the openings and along the exposed coal seam between the openings to provide a 4-foot (minimum) barrier in all directions between the coal and proposed coarse coal refuse fill.

(j) An internal drainage system is proposed to provide a controlled outlet for any water that accumulates in the portal area.

(k) The proposed soil and rock backfill zone isolates the mine workings and coal seam from the proposed coarse coal refuse fill minimizing any potential for a mine fire to spread to the refuse fill.

(l) Any exposed areas of the Sewell coal seam within the fill footprint shall be covered with at least four feet of soil and rock as the coal refuse backfill is placed.

(m) The coarse coal refuse shall be placed in 2-foot (max) thick compacted lifts. This requirement should preclude the potential for the refuse to spontaneously combust.

(n) The coarse coal refuse shall be placed in a manner which precludes the fill from impounding water.

There are no representatives of miners at Kepler No. 1 Prep Plant. A copy of this Petition has been posted on the bulletin board as of February 26, 2026. In support of the proposed alternative method, the petitioner has also submitted a location map, plan and sections of the proposed coarse coal refuse fill and mine opening seal details, and photographs of the existing conditions of the openings.

The petitioner asserts that the alternative method will guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners under the mandatory standard.

Jessica D. Senk,

Acting Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

[FR Doc. 2026-06516 Filed 4-2-26; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-331 and 72-32; NRC-2026-0298]

In the Matter of NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC; Central Iowa Power Cooperative; Corn Belt Power Cooperative; Duane Arnold Energy Center; Direct Transfer of Licenses

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Order; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an order

approving the direct transfer of partial ownership of Renewed Facility License (RFL) No. DPR-49 for the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC) and of the associated general license for the DAEC Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) from two of the current owners, Central Iowa Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, to the third current owner, NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC (NEDA). Following the transfer, NEDA will be the 100-percent owner of RFL No. DPR-49 and the associated general license for the DAEC ISFSI. The NRC is also approving a conforming amendment to RFL No. DPR-49 for administrative purposes to reflect the license transfer.

DATES: The order was issued on March 30, 2026, and is effective for one year.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2026-0298 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-0298. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "Begin ADAMS Public Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced (if it is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that it is mentioned in this document.

- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brent Ballard, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-0680; email: Brent.Ballard@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The text of the order is attached.

Dated: April 1, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ilka Berrios,

Chief, Plant Licensing Branch III, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Attachment—Order Approving Direct Transfer of Licenses and Conforming Amendment

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

In the Matter of: NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC, Central Iowa Power Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, (Duane Arnold Energy Center and the Associated Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation). Docket Nos. 50-331 and 72-32, Renewed License No. DPR-49.

Order Approving Direct Transfer of Licenses and Conforming Amendment

I.

NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC (NEDA), Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), and Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Corn Belt) are the owners of the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC). With respect to their ownerships, they are co-holders of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) Renewed Facility License No. DPR-49 for the DAEC and of the associated general license for the DAEC independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI). NEDA, the current operator licensee, holds 70 percent ownership of the DAEC, CIPCO holds 20 percent ownership of the DAEC, and Corn Belt holds 10 percent ownership of the DAEC. The DAEC is located in Linn County, Iowa.

II.

By application dated November 25, 2025 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML25330A015), as supplemented by letter dated February 23, 2026 (ML26055A092), NEDA, CIPCO, and Corn Belt requested, pursuant to Section 184, "Inalienability of Licenses," of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (AEA), and title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.80, "Transfer of licenses," that the NRC consent to the direct transfer of CIPCO's 20-percent ownership interest and Corn Belt's 10-percent ownership interest of Renewed Facility License No. DPR-49 for the DAEC and of the associated general license for the DAEC ISFSI to NEDA. NEDA also requested, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, "Application for amendment of license, construction permit, or early site permit," that the NRC approve an administrative amendment to Renewed Facility License No. DPR-49 to reflect the transfer, to be issued and made effective at the time the transfer occurs.

On January 29, 2026, the NRC published a notice of consideration of approval of the license transfer application in the **Federal Register** (91 FR 3930). This notice provided an opportunity to comment, request a hearing, and petition for leave to intervene on the license transfer application. The NRC did not receive any hearing requests in response to the notice. The NRC did receive comments in response to the notice, which the NRC staff considered and addressed in the safety evaluation supporting this transfer order.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license for a utilization facility, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, either voluntarily or involuntarily, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license to any person, unless the NRC gives its consent in writing. Upon review of the information in the license transfer application and other information before the Commission, and relying upon the representations contained in the application, the NRC staff has determined that NEDA is qualified to be the holder of the licenses to the extent proposed and that the transfer of the licenses, as described in the application, is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

Upon review of the request in the license transfer application for approval of a conforming administrative amendment to reflect the transfer, the NRC staff has determined that the application for amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the AEA and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I; the facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the AEA, and the rules and regulations of the Commission; there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public and that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations; the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and the issuance of the amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

The findings set forth above are supported by an NRC staff safety evaluation dated the same date as this order, which is available at ADAMS Accession No. ML26068A226.

III.

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 161b, 161i, and 184 of the AEA, Title 42 of the *United States Code* Sections 2201(b), 2201(i), and 2234, and 10 CFR 50.80 and 10 CFR 50.90, *it is hereby ordered* that the license transfer application, as described herein, is approved.

It is further ordered that, consistent with 10 CFR 2.1315(b), the license amendment that makes changes, as indicated in Enclosure 2 to the cover letter forwarding

this order, to reflect the subject direct transfer is approved. The amendment shall be issued and made effective at the time the proposed direct transfer action is completed.

It is further ordered that after receipt of all required regulatory approvals of the proposed direct transfer action, NEDA shall inform the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in writing of such receipt no later than 2 business days prior to the date of the closing of the direct transfer. Should the proposed direct transfer not be completed within 1 year of the date of this order, this order shall become null and void; provided, however, that upon written application and for good cause shown, such date may be extended by order.

This order is effective upon issuance.

For further details with respect to this order, see the license transfer application dated November 25, 2025, as supplemented by letter dated February 23, 2026, and the associated NRC staff safety evaluation dated the same date as this order. Publicly available documents created or received at the NRC are accessible electronically through ADAMS in the NRC Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC Public Document Room reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov.

Dated: March 30, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Jamie Pelton,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 2026-06498 Filed 4-2-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. STN 50-528, STN 50-529, STN-530, and 72-44; NRC-2026-1618]

El Paso Electric Company; Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, Units 1, 2, and 3; Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Licenses

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Application for indirect transfer of licenses; opportunity to comment, request a hearing, and petition for leave to intervene.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) received and is considering approval of an application filed by El Paso Electric Company (EPE) on January 28, 2026. The application seeks NRC approval of the indirect transfer of control of EPE's interests in Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-41, NPF-51, and NPF-74 for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (Palo Verde), Units 1,

2, and 3, respectively, as well as the associated general license for the Palo Verde Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) (together, the facility).

DATES: Submit comments by May 4, 2026. A request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene must be filed by April 23, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the Federal rulemaking website:

- *Federal rulemaking website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-1618. Address questions about Docket IDs in *Regulations.gov* to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *Email comments to:* Hearing.Docket@nrc.gov. If you do not receive an automatic email reply confirming receipt, then contact us at 301-415-1677.

- *Fax comments to:* Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at 301-415-1101.

- *Mail comments to:* Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

- *Hand deliver comments to:* 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. eastern time (ET) Federal workdays; telephone: 301-415-1677.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Orders, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-3329; email: William.Orders@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2026-1618 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking Website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-1618.