

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION – REGION III

February 19, 2014

### PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE – PN-III-14-003

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

#### Facility

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station  
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company  
Oak Harbor, OH  
Docket: 50-346  
License: NPF-3

#### Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

#### **SUBJECT: DAVIS-BESSE SHIELD BUILDING VOIDS**

On February 14, 2014, the licensee informed the NRC that an unfilled area was discovered in the concrete along the top of the Davis-Besse shield building construction opening on the internal building side. The condition was discovered during the current steam generator replacement outage. This issue does not represent an immediate safety concern. The plant is currently shutdown and the reactor vessel is defueled. The licensee will have to resolve this issue before the plant can return to service.

The unfilled space was found in the 2.5 foot thick free-standing, reinforced concrete shield building. It is separate from the 1.5 inch thick steel containment vessel. The containment vessel and shield building are separated by a 4.5 foot annulus/hollow space. The shield building protects the containment vessel and the reactor from impact by external objects during extreme weather events such as tornadoes.

An opening was cut in the shield building and the containment vessel in 2011 for the replacement of the reactor vessel head. At the completion of those activities, the openings in the containment vessel and in the shield building were closed and the walls restored. Restoration of the wall of the shield building involved replacing reinforcement steel bars (rebar) and pouring concrete that encased the rebar. The NRC will review the licensee's analysis of the implications of discovering the unfilled space near the top of the shield building opening.

NRC inspectors were immediately notified of this issue on February 14, 2014, and will closely monitor the plant's actions and analyses. Currently, NRC inspectors are on-site reviewing and conducting their own independent inspection activities associated with the licensee's replacement of the plant's steam generators. The NRC will supplement these inspectors as necessary to evaluate the licensee's current and planned analyses and corrective actions. The NRC will make sure the licensee corrects the issue and will thoroughly examine the licensee's repairs prior to restart of the plant.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. State officials have been informed. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of February 19, 2014, 6:25 a.m. (EDT).

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