

February 15, 2001

Mr. Guy G. Campbell
Vice President - Nuclear
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
5501 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449-9760

SUBJECT: DAVIS-BESSE - RESOLUTION OF SECURITY ISSUE

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Section 1PP2.b of Davis Besse Inspection Report No. 50-346/2000013(DRS), dated October 13, 2000, identified an unresolved item pertaining to access to vital areas. 10 CFR 73.55(d)(7) requires access to vital areas to be limited to personnel who need access to the areas to perform non-emergency duties. Section 1.6.1.1 of the Davis-Besse security plan states the level of access granted is determined by assigned responsibilities. During the inspection, a nine month card history was run for six randomly selected persons and a comparison was made to the vital areas authorized and entry into those areas for the nine month period. This review showed that in all cases personnel had been granted access to one or more vital areas that they had not entered within the past nine months. One of the selected individuals had not entered eight vital areas granted unescorted access to since November 1999. The unresolved item was whether the frequency of access to a vital area needs to be considered when determining work-related need for vital area access.

The NRC has concluded that the frequency of access to a vital area should be closely reviewed by supervisors when reviewing the justification for granting continued access. However, the lack of frequent access to a vital area is not a singular cause to deny access. Such occasions of infrequent access are expected to be exceptions (e.g., fire brigade members, EMTs, first responders, etc.) since most plants have procedural guidance that allow timely changes to access levels for outages and other known work projects. Individual supervisors (rather than the security organization) bear the primary regulatory responsibility for limiting vital area access authorization to personnel with legitimate non-emergency work-related needs. We have concluded that your activities complied with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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 (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

James R. Creed
Safeguards Program Manager
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-346
License No. NPF-3

cc: B. Saunders, President - FENOC
H. Bergendahl, Plant Manager
D. Lockwood, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
M. O'Reilly, FirstEnergy
Ohio State Liaison Officer
R. Owen, Ohio Department of Health
A. Schriber, Chairman, Ohio Public
Utilities Commission

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