

October 22, 2001

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

SUBJECT: DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 1 - DOCUMENTATION OF
DROP-IN VISIT RE: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2001-01,
"CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD
PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NO. MB2626)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," was issued on August 3, 2001. The bulletin addressed recent discoveries of cracked and leaking Alloy 600 vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles, including control rod drive mechanism and thermocouple nozzles, at four pressurized water reactors (PWRs), which raised concerns about the structural integrity of VHP nozzles throughout the PWR industry.

Your response to the bulletin for the Davis-Besse facility was provided by letter dated September 4, 2001. An unscheduled discussion, subsequent to your scheduled drop-in visit with the Commissioners' assistants, was held with you and members of your staff on October 11, 2001, to further discuss your response. You indicated that you would like to provide additional information to further justify your proposal to defer reactor vessel head inspections to the April 2002 refueling outage. The staff is open to reviewing any new and relevant information regarding resolution of this issue. You indicated that such information would be provided promptly. A meeting with your staff to discuss this new information has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2001, in Rockville, Maryland.

We look forward to working with your staff on this issue. If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-3154.

Sincerely,

/Douglas V. Pickett for/

Stephen P. Sands, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-346

cc: See next page

Mr. Guy G. Campbell
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Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1

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DATE	10/18/01	10/ 17 /01	10/ 17 /01	10/ 17 /01	10/20/01

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*See previous concurrence