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Docket Number 50-346

License Number NPF-3

Serial Number 1-1267

March 27, 2002

Mr. J.E. Dyer, Administrator
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351Subject: Confirmatory Action Letter Response – Plan and Schedule for Safety
Significance Assessment of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On March 13, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 (DBNPS) regarding the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) head degradation that was discovered during the 13th Refueling Outage that began on February 16, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to provide the FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) plan and schedule for assessment of the safety significance of the RPV head degradation at the DBNPS as required by item 6 of the CAL.

The FENOC is presently evaluating the RPV head condition for safety significance. The evaluation includes: a) structural evaluation of the as-found RPV head condition to determine if it would have failed under design basis assumptions, and b) completing probabilistic safety assessments of:

1. The structural integrity of the as-found RPV head condition as to whether it would have failed.
2. The impact of a RPV head failure on the ability to maintain core cooling, both short term and long term;
3. The impact of a RPV head failure on the ability to safely shutdown the reactor and to maintain it in a shutdown condition;
4. The impact of a RPV head failure on the ability to maintain containment integrity and prevent the release of radiation to the environment; and

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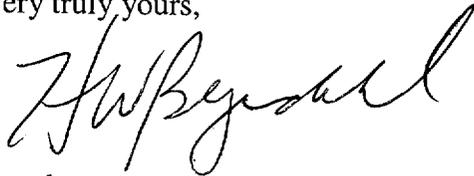
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5. The increase in frequency of core damage and frequency of a radioactive release from containment due to the as-found condition of the RPV head.

The assessment of safety significance is scheduled to be completed and submitted to NRC no later than April 8, 2002.

If you have any question or require further information, please contact Mr. David H. Lockwood, Manager – Regulatory Affairs, at (419) 321-8450.

Very truly yours,



Attachment

cc: USNRC Document Control Desk
S.P. Sands, DB-1 NRC/NRR Project Manager
D.V. Pickett, DB-1 NRC/NRR Backup Project Manager
C.S. Thomas, DB-1 Senior Resident Inspector
Utility Radiological Safety Board

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COMMITMENT LIST

The following list identifies those actions committed to by the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS) in this document. Any other actions discussed in the submittal represent intended or planned actions by the DBNPS. They are described only for information and are not regulatory commitments. Please notify the Manager - Regulatory Affairs (419-321-8450) at the DBNPS of any questions regarding this document or associated regulatory commitments.

COMMITMENTS

DUE DATE

The assessment of safety significance is scheduled to be completed and submitted to NRC no later than April 8, 2002.	April 8, 2002
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