

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/10/02

EDO CONTROL: G20020179  
DOC DT: 03/28/02  
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Dennis J. Kucinich

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 02-0225

Chairman Meserve

DESC:

Recent Discovery of Significant Damage to the  
Davis Besse Reactor Lid

ROUTING:

Travers  
Paperiello  
Kane  
Norry  
Craig  
Burns/Cyr  
Dyer, RIII

DATE: 03/29/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

*Date Printed: Mar 28, 2002 16:48*

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-02-0225 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/28/2002  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** REP Dennis Kucinich  
**AFFILIATION:** REP  
**ADDRESSEE:** CHRM Richard Meserve  
**SUBJECT:** Concerns recent discovery of significant damage to the Davis Besse reactor lid

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF

**LETTER DATE:** 03/28/2002  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** OCA to Ack

**NOTES:**  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 04/12/2002 **DATE SIGNED:**

**DENNIS J. KUCINICH**  
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**House of Representatives**

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Workforce

[www.house.gov/kucinich](http://www.house.gov/kucinich)

March 28, 2002

Chairman Richard A. Meserve  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

The Davis Besse nuclear power plant is within 100 miles of the Cleveland, Toledo and Detroit metropolitan areas, where more than 6 million people live. As such, I am very concerned about the recent discovery of significant damage to the Davis Besse reactor lid. As you know, a six-inch deep hole was found in the carbon steel of the reactor lid as a result of a coolant leak. Boric acid, a principal component of the coolant, ate through the six inches of carbon steel. Only 3/16 of an inch of stainless steel liner remains. I understand that the high pressure (2200 lbs /sq inch) inside the reactor was creating a bulge in the stainless steel. This clearly indicates that the integrity of the reactor itself was compromised and it was a matter of time before the steel liner ruptured resulting in a sudden loss of coolant. As you know, only a fully functional safety backup system would have prevented a loss of control at the reactor. However, the Davis Besse safety backup systems have historically had a poor record of operation.

I urge you to ensure the safety of Ohio citizens and keep Davis Besse shut down until the reactor lid is replaced. Any repair of the current lid is unacceptable; there is no scientific basis that such a repair can withstand the environment of an operating reactor. The NRC must be prepared to offer solid evidence that any repair will meet the design safety basis of Davis Besse. Since, such a repair to a critical component has never been performed at any reactor, my standard will be exceedingly high.

The Davis Besse nuclear power plant came far too close to losing control of the reactor and running the risk of radiation escape. Allowing any more risk to public safety is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

DJK:ap