

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/22/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020183
DOC DT: 03/21/02
FINAL REPLY:

Christine Patronik-Holder
Safe Energy Communication Council
Chris Trepal, Earth Day Coalition
Amy Simpson, OH Public Interest Res. Group
Stuart Greenberg, Environmental Health Watch
Shari Weir, Ohio Citizen Action
David Hughes, Citizens Power
Harvey Wasserman, Citizens Protecting Ohio
Kurt Waltzer, Ohio Environmental Council

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 02-0230
Collins, NRR

DESC: ROUTING:

Request FirstEnergy Corporation be required to
Provide a "Whole Plant" X-Ray Examination Followed
by a Full System Walk-Down of the Davis-Besse
Nuclear Plant

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Dyer, RIII

DATE: 04/01/02

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Mar 29, 2002 16:28

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LOGGING DATE: 03/29/2002

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Christine Patronik-Holder (OH)

AFFILIATION: OH

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Richard Meserve

SUBJECT: Requests that FirstEnergy Corporation be required to provide a "whole plant" X-ray examination followed by a full system walk-down of the Davis-Besse nuclear plant in Oak Harbor

ACTION: Direct Reply

DISTRIBUTION: Chrm, Comrs.

LETTER DATE: 03/21/2002

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: SECY to Ack

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 04/22/2002

DATE SIGNED:

**Safe Energy Communication Council
Earth Day Coalition
Ohio Citizen Action
Ohio Environmental Council
Citizen Power
Citizens Protecting Ohio
Ohio Public Interest Research Group
Environmental Health Watch**

March 21, 2002

Dr. Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Chairman Meserve:

Ohio groups today, Thursday, March 21, 2002 call upon you to protect the public health and safety of all Ohioans by requiring FirstEnergy Corporation to provide a "whole plant" X-ray examination followed by a full system walk-down of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant in Oak Harbor, and to require that the plant remain closed until a new reactor head is installed.

The NRC approved a full X-ray for the Yankee Rowe nuclear plant in Massachusetts, which subsequently closed. A full system walk-down conducted at Michigan's Cook Nuclear Reactor after start-up had been authorized resulted in the discovery of numerous safety violations.

FirstEnergy reported in mid-February that cracks in the reactor's stainless steel nozzles allowed acid to eat through a six-inch-thick carbon steel head, leaving a mere 3/8 of an inch protection. The company proposes to mend the half-foot thick hole in the reactor with a "patch." On March 19, an additional area of corrosion was discovered.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission could not explain the leakage and described the degradation as the most extensive corrosion ever found on the vessel head of any American nuclear reactor saying: "It's certainly very unusual. ... Certainly, it's a deterioration of a very important safety feature."

Sixty-nine of the nation's 103 commercial nuclear power plants are constructed with a pressurized water reactor design similar to Davis-Besse. However, the NRC has notified all of the nation's nuclear power plants to be on the alert for this unusual problem.

Davis-Besse's checkered history of safety and shut-downs was carefully documented in a report titled "Stainless Steel Clad: The Dutchboy's Finger in the Davis-Besse Dike" released yesterday by the Union of Concerned Scientists. It is clear that after 25 years of operation, the plant is already aging poorly showing signs of stress due to extensive heat

and radiation, in addition to the extraordinary steel cap deterioration. Yet, FirstEnergy says it wants to extend plant's operating license until 2027.

The company's failure to follow safety regulations has led to this unprecedented occurrence, which demands unprecedented action. As advocates for consumers and the environment, we urge the NRC and the State of Ohio to require the most stringent inspection ever developed, including X-ray examinations for even the smallest cracks and leaks followed by a walk-down of the entire system before the plant is allowed to resume operations.

The people of Ohio deserve more than filling the holes of what is becoming a nuclear sieve with an assortment of makeshift plugs.

Sincerely,

Safe Energy Communication Council

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