



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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 - 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 (NRC) 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 (CRDM) and thermocouple nozzles, at four pressurized water reactors (PWRs), which raised concerns about the structural integrity of VHP nozzles throughout the PWR industry. In issuing this bulletin, the NRC:

- (1) requested that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, and
- (2) required that all addressees provide to the NRC a written response in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(f).

The bulletin also requested, in part, the following information from plants that have previously experienced either leakage from, or cracking in, VHP nozzles:

- (1) If your future inspection plans do not include performing inspections before December 31, 2001, provide your basis for concluding that the regulatory requirements discussed in the Applicable Regulatory Requirements section will continue to be met until the inspections are performed.

Your response to the bulletin for the Davis-Besse facility was provided by letter dated September 4, 2001. A brief drop-in visit was held with you and members of your staff on October 11, 2001, to further discuss your response. At that time, your staff indicated that additional information would be forthcoming to further justify your proposal to defer reactor vessel head inspections to the April 2002 refueling outage. The staff stated that it would be interested in reviewing any new, relevant information on this issue and you indicated that such information would be provided promptly. After the staff has an opportunity to review this new information, a meeting will be scheduled with your staff.

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G. Campbell

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-3154.

Sincerely,

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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