December 4, 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 NO. 1 - RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NO. MB2626)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On August 3, 2001, the staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting 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 at their respective pressurized-water reactor designed plants. In addition, the Bulletin requested that licensees not planning to perform inspections prior to December 31, 2001, provide the technical basis for their planned inspection schedules.

You provided your response to the information requested in the Bulletin by letter dated September 4, 2001, as supplemented by letters dated October 17, October 30, November 1, and November 30, 2001. In addition, public meetings were held on October 24, and November 28, 2001, to discuss your responses.

Based on the information provided in your responses and the information available to the staff regarding the industry experience with VHP nozzle cracking, the staff finds that you have provided sufficient information to justify operation until February 16, 2002, at which time you will shut down the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, facility for the next refueling outage and perform VHP nozzle inspections as discussed in your letter dated November 30, 2001. The commitments contained in your letter dated November 30, 2001, were integral to the staff's finding.

The staff's assessment regarding the closeout of your Bulletin 2001-01 response for Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1, will be forwarded under separate correspondence in the near future.

Sincerely,

/RA L.B. Marsh for/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-346

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA L. B. Marsh for/

John A. Zwolinski, Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1

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