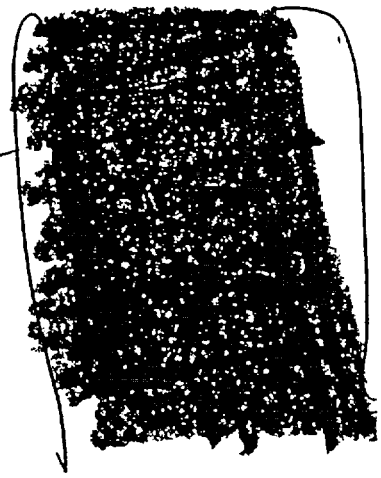

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 6, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: STATUS OF FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES"

The staff hosted a public meeting on November 28, 2001, with FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) representatives as part of its ongoing efforts associated with the review of their Bulletin 2001-01 responses. The licensee provided additional information, including its revised probabilistic safety assessment. On November 30, 2001, FENOC documented this additional information and committed to the following: (1) shutdown Davis-Besse by February 16, 2002, for the commencement of the refueling outage; (2) perform 100% qualified visual inspection and non-destructive examination of VHP nozzles, and characterization of flaws through destructive examination, should cracks be detected; (3) reduce reactor coolant system hot leg temperature from 605°F to 598°F for the remainder of the operating cycle; (4) maximize the availability of the plant's redundant critical safety systems by minimizing on-line maintenance and testing of these systems; and (5) provide increased human factors reliability through additional training and dedicated personnel.

Based on the additional information provided and FENOC's commitments outlined above, it is the staff's judgment that sufficient information is available to justify operation of the Davis-Besse facility until February 16, 2002.

The staff's decision was documented in a letter dated December 4, 2001, to FENOC, and communicated in a telephone call with Davis-Besse management.

cc: SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA

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415-2426

Information was deleted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, exemption 2
FOIA- 2002-229

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