

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/22/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020600
DOC DT: 10/10/02
FINAL REPLY:

Sen. George V. Voinovich

TO:

Chairman

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 02-0668

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Concerns Expressed During Meeting with Chairman
on October 9, 2002

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Collins, NRR
Thadani, RES

DATE: 10/21/02

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

HR

Bird

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

HR has lead to prepare response for Chairman's
signature on items from Chairman's meeting on
10/9/02. Coordinate with NRR and RES.

Template: S2cy-017

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Oct 16, 2002 15:34

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-02-0668

LOGGING DATE: 10/16/2002

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: George Voinovich

AFFILIATION: SEN

ADDRESSEE: Richard Meserve

SUBJECT: NRC's "Lesson's Learned" Task Force Report on Agency's Handling of Davis-Besse Reactor Vessel Head Damage

ACTION: ~~Appropriate~~ Chairman's Signature

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA

LETTER DATE: 10/10/2002

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: Adams

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20020600

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RESTRUCTURING AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS**

RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS,
AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ETHICS

October 10, 2002

Dr. Richard Meserve
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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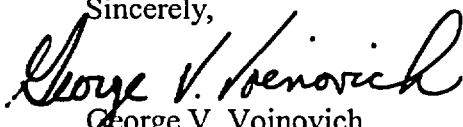
Dear Chairman Merserve:

Thank you for taking the time to brief me yesterday on the NRC's "Lesson's Learned" Task Force Report on Agency's Handling of Davis-Bessie Reactor Vessel Head Damage. I appreciate your candor in explaining to me the situation surrounding the reactor head damage and the investigation conducted by the NRC.

I consider the information regarding the causes of the damaged head to be both serious and troubling. While I appreciate your assurances that the safety mechanisms in place would have guarded against any external release of radiation, I nevertheless remain concerned about the events which led to the deteriorated reactor head.

With the release of the NRC's "lessons learned" report I believe it is now time for the General Accounting Office to begin an investigation into this matter. I ask that both you and your staff cooperate fully with the GAO, as you have done in the past. In addition, I will be asking for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to conduct an oversight hearing into this matter as soon as practicable in the 108th Congress. I know your work in this matter will continue over the coming weeks and months and I ask that you continue to keep me informed on the progress.

Sincerely,


George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

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Chairman's Meeting with Senator Voinovich
Wednesday, October 9, 2002

1. Senator Voinovich will write to GAO expressing his interest in their efforts on Davis-Besse.

2. Senator Voinovich believes a hearing in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Nuclear Safety is needed when the NRC, IG, OI, and GAO have completed their respective work. The purpose of the hearing will be to have a full and complete discussion by all interested groups and parties, including UCS being provided a chance to express their views.

3. Personnel issues: the Senator asked a) for a two-pager on how the NRC is doing in hiring and retaining employees {where do our employees come from—Navy, college, industry?}, b) for a letter from NRC about the employment opportunities at the NRC and in the industry for young people emerging from college, c) whether we had sufficient hiring flexibility and the extent to which his legislation would be helpful in NRC's recruiting efforts, and d) whether NRC recruiting was bound by the "rule of 3" and if Title V applies to NRC.

4. Possible shutdown of the University of Michigan research reactor was discussed--the Senator asked for background info on how important the reactor is to the NRC and requested a two-pager on the status of research reactors. Additionally, Senator Voinovich said that he would write to Sec. Abraham urging DOE support to keep the reactor operating.

5. Senator Voinovich asked for a future meeting to discuss where the Chairman thought the nuclear industry "is going." What does the NRC think of reports that the industry could be considering building 5-6 new reactors? Timeframe for this meeting was not discussed.

6. The Senator inquired about the new enrichment facility, mentioning USEC and LES and Exelon, as sources for enriching uranium. Nothing is owed to the Senator on this.

HR

RES
RR