

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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To: Collins, NRR

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AFFILIATION: NY

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Richard Meserve

SUBJECT: Concerns the Davis-Besse mess

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9 Twin Orchard Drive
Oswego, NY 13126
January 8, 2003

➡ Chairman Richard A. Meserve
Commissioner Greta Joy Dicus
Commissioner Nils J. Diaz
Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, Jr.
Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North, Mailstop 16C1
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Chairman and Commissioners,

Although I had other plans for my spare time last year, I spent a lot of it learning about the Davis-Besse mess. For example, I believe that I have read all documents linked to the 0350 Panel web page. Consequently, I have the following opinions/comments:

Inability to Decide

There are people on the US NRC payroll who, after about 9 months, still can't decide that the total loss of structural thickness on a commercial reactor head is "significant." It is my opinion that their supervisors, and the managers above them, should be dismissed for cause.

Fines

Substantial fines are needed to show the rest of the industry that you intend to begin regulating. Think about it: you didn't fine this operator and they didn't spend time and money fixing the plant. Members of your staff should have a copy of my letter, (number 9, dated October 5, 2002 sent to the Chairman of the 0350 Panel), that gives recommended dollar amounts and time periods.

Pressure Test

If your neighbor looked for a leak on his daughter's bicycle tire by bringing it to pressure, keeping it there for 7 days, releasing all the pressure, then looking for the leak location(s), wouldn't you laugh?

If an Ohio nuclear plant looked for a leak on the bottom reactor head by bringing it to pressure, keeping it there for 7 days, releasing all the pressure, then looking for the leak location(s), wouldn't you laugh?

Realignment

Based on Davis-Besse, I don't like the way Region III regulated PWRs. These PWRs should be reassigned alternately to Region I and Region II. Also, INPO should be prevented from inspecting these particular PWRs.

Quality Control

Why have I seen no mention of Quality Control? Isn't it amazing that nobody has noticed there is no viable Quality Control function at Davis-Besse? Should other FENOC operated sites be checked for this missing function, too?

US NRC Safety Philosophy

It is backwards. The present US NRC organization seems to think that it is responsible for proving a plant is unsafe. It should be the responsibility solely of the operating company to prove the plant, or any part of it, is safe when questioned by the NRC. If they can't do it, the plant is unsafe.

I don't need a reply.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel

Copy: D Lochbaum