

February 21, 2003

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-010**

This preliminary notification constitutes **EARLY** notice of events of **POSSIBLE** safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

**Facility**

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station  
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Co.  
Oak Harbor OH

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

Docket: 05000346

**SUBJECT: FUEL LOADING**

**DESCRIPTION:**

On February 19, 2003, the utility began loading fuel into the reactor. The reactor had been defueled since June 2002 for replacement of the reactor vessel head and other maintenance and modification activities.

Prior to the plant entering Mode 6 (fuel loading) at 1:26 p.m. on February 19, the NRC resident inspectors verified that the plant's Technical Specification requirements for refueling had been met and that required plant safety systems were operable. The resident inspectors have been monitoring refueling activities.

Once fuel loading is completed and the containment integrated leak rate test is performed, the plant staff will begin preparations for a planned test of the reactor cooling system at near normal operating pressure and temperature. The reactor will not be started up for the test; heat added through the operation of the reactor cooling pumps will be sufficient to approach normal operating temperature.

The licensee had advised interested news media that fuel loading has begun.

The State of Ohio will be notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 6 p.m. EST on February 20, 2003.

**CONTACTS:**

Scott Thomas  
419/898-2775

Christine Lipa  
630/829-9619