

March 13, 2003

Mr. Gary R. Leidich,
Executive Vice President - FENOC
FirstEnergy Corp
76 S. Main St. 18th Floor
Akron, OH 44308

Dear Mr. Leidich:

It is our pleasure to formally invite you to participate as a panel member for the Davis-Besse session at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) 15th Annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) sponsored by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The conference will be held April 16, 17, and 18, 2003, at the Capital Hilton Hotel, 16th and K Streets NW, Washington, D.C.

The session is entitled "Building on the Davis-Besse Experience," and the theme of the session will be centered around the title. Other confirmed panelists include Cynthia Carpenter, from our Division of Inspection Program Management, who will talk about Davis-Besse related changes to our inspection program; Mr. Jere Witt, County Administrator for Ottawa Co., OH, who will discuss challenges or changes that he and his community might face as a result of the recent vessel head degradation issue; and myself. I will serve as panel chairman and moderator. As a panel member, we would ask you to provide a 10-minute presentation on the changes you have implemented or plan to implement as a result of lessons learned from the vessel head issue. The RIC presents an opportunity for managers from the NRC, its regulated utilities and other interested stakeholders to communicate directly regarding safety initiatives and regulatory issues. We do not intend for the Davis-Besse panel to be a trial-like atmosphere devoted to rehashing all of the problems that led to the discovery of the vessel head degradation a year ago. However, we plan to remain focused on the planned improvements in our respective programs to help prevent a recurrence of the event. Your presentation, and the presentation of the other panel members will help stimulate questions and comments from the other session participants and attendees.

We are happy that you have previously accepted by phone our invitation to join the panel. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact myself (301-415-1270) or Mr. Darrell Roberts, my Technical Assistant, at 301-415-1669 or via E-mail: [dj@nrc.gov](mailto:djr@nrc.gov).

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Distribution: S. Collins, D. Roberts, C. Carpenter

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