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Date: 5/6/02 1:44PM
Subject: MESSAGE FOR DAVIS-BESSE ROOT CAUSE MEETING

For the root cause meeting with Davis-Besse tomorrow, we have prepared the attached 'message points' to help focus and guide our discussions and questions with the licensee. Let me know if you have any comments/questions on these points.

Steve Bloom has asked that questions asked at the meeting be documented by the questioner on 3 x 5 cards that he will provide tomorrow.

Allen

'NRC Message Point'

- (1) The root cause analysis report provides a plausible scenario of the degradation process(es) that resulted in the cavity at Davis-Besse, but insufficient physical evidence is available to support the description in the report.
- (2) Uncertainty in the root cause degradation process(es) will necessitate the use of conservative assumptions in short-term regulatory actions.
- (3) FENOC or the industry need to provide physical evidence from metallurgical investigation of the cavity areas and laboratory experimentation to provide understanding of the degradation process(es) that occurred at Davis-Besse.
- (4) Reviews of licensee responses to Bulletin 2002-01 have identified no other plants with the type and level of degradation found at Davis-Besse, and the root cause analysis report does not contradict the short-term staff actions, including uncertainties in the report.
- (5) The identification of RPV head degradation has opened other safety issues with vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzle cracking beyond the circumferential cracking addressed by Bulletin 2001-01.
- (6) A regulatory approach for long-term management of VHP nozzle cracking will be developed by the staff by the end of the year.

CC: Charles Casto; Richard Barrett

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