

November 19, 2003

Mr. Paul M. Blanch
[ADDRESS DELETED
UNDER 10 CFR 2.790(a)]

Dear Mr. Blanch:

In your August 20 and 21, 2003, e-mails to me, you raised several questions regarding numerous news articles that had been published about the "slammer" worm infecting the Davis-Besse Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS) last January. Specifically, you requested to know if the news articles were accurate, if Davis-Besse had reported the virus to the NRC at the time, and whether there were any requirements to report failures of the SPDS to the NRC.

Based on our reading of the news articles, they appear to be accurate. Davis-Besse was not required to report the virus attack to the NRC because the SPDS was not lost for more than 8 hours. The SPDS was unavailable for a total of 4 hours and 50 minutes. Had the system been unavailable for more than 8 hours, a report to the NRC would have been required.

The infection of the Davis-Besse SPDS was the subject of an Information Notice (IN) sent to all power reactor licensees on August 29, 2003. This IN described the details of how the plant computer became infected, the duration, and the corrective actions taken by Davis-Besse to correct the problem and prevent recurrence. As stated in the IN, "Davis-Besse implemented the following corrective actions: (1) required network services to document all external connections to internal network, (2) installed the security patch for the Microsoft SQL Server 2000 vulnerability, (3) installed a firewall between the plant network and the corporate network, (4) established a requirement to monitor and filter the data coming into the plant network to the same standard as the corporate firewall, and (5) implemented a process for computer engineering personnel to review security patches for systems supported and install them within an acceptable time frame."

In addition, this issue was also of interest to Congressman Markey. Our response to the Congressman was sent on October 2, 2003, and is publicly available at the NRC's Public Electronic Reading room under ADAMS Accession number ML032470817.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (630) 829-9637.

Sincerely,

/ RA /

John A. Grobe, Chairman
Davis-Besse Oversight Panel

Docket No.: 50-346

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