

Licensee/Facility:

FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING CO.
Davis-besse
Akron, Ohio
Dockets: 050-00346
[1] B&W-L-LP

Notification:

MR Number: 3-2004-0015
Date: 03/09/2004
RIII - Via Telconf. with Site
License No:

Subject: Plant Status Update and Restart Approval

Discussion:

Discussion: This information is current as of 7:30 am (EST) on March 9, 2004. The Region III Regional Administrator announced on March 8, 2004, that the NRC's restriction on the restart of the plant was removed. This decision was described in a letter to FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), dated March 8, 2004. The letter addressed Confirmatory Action Letter closure, Restart Checklist closure, coordination of the restart decision with other federal agencies, issuance of a Confirmatory Order, and continuation of enhanced NRC regulatory oversight of Davis-Besse activities after restart. In addition, an inspection schedule letter was issued on March 8, 2004, describing NRC's planned inspections. These include a restart special inspection to observe around-the-clock transition to Modes2and1 and subsequent ascension to full power, special inspections to assess FENOC implementation of commitments for continued performance improvement during Operating Cycle 14, compliance with the Confirmatory Order, and enhanced inspections to gain perspective in areas monitored by NRC Performance Indicators (PIs) where the Davis-Besse Oversight Panel has determined that the PIs do not afford sufficient insight into plant performance because of the extended shutdown.

The plant is currently in Mode 3 maintaining Normal Operating Pressure/Normal Operating Temperature. (NOP/NOT - 533OF/2155 psig). Upcoming key events include entering Mode 2, commencing zero power physics testing, achieving reactor criticality, entering Mode1, performing a readiness and effectiveness review prior to initial grid synchronization, initial grid synchronization, performing a readiness and effectiveness review prior to exceeding 50% power, placing a second main feedwater pump in service, reaching 100% power. Absent significant performance or equipment problems these events are scheduled to be accomplished in the next five to seven days.

Ongoing resident inspector coverage continues and around-the-clock inspection and oversight of licensee activities is underway with the assistance of NRC resident inspectors or examiners from other regions. This coverage is expected to be in place for approximately two weeks.

Regional Action: For Information Only

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