

From: Jon Hopkins *NRR*
To: *all* Baker, Randal; Grobe, John; Lipa, Christine; Passehl, Dave; Phillips, Monte
Date: 2/25/04 11:00AM
Subject: Strawman writeup for Independent Assessments

See attached for Q and A.

CC: Lyon, Carl; Mendiola, Anthony; Ruland, William; Rutkowski, John; Salter-Williams, Monica; Shea, James; Stang, John; Thomas, Christopher

B-49

Question:

As part of its restart authorization process, the NRC issued an Order requiring independent assessments of Davis-Besse to be performed. Given this, why did the NRC deny the April 24, 2002, 2.206 petition from D. Lochbaum that requested performance of independent assessments? Wouldn't earlier performance of the independent assessments be more safety conscious and responsible?

Answer:

The Confirmatory Order required independent assessments are different from those requested by the April 2002 petition.

The NRC staff has determined that Davis-Besse can restart and operate safely. The Order requires focused independent assessments to assure sustained long-term improvement in four specific areas; operations performance, organizational safety culture including safety conscious work environment, the corrective action program implementation, and the engineering program effectiveness.

The petition requested assessments, Verification by an Independent Party (VIP), were not for assuring specific sustained long-term improvement, but for a broad assessment of Davis-Besse performance in lieu of NRC inspection and assessment oversight process.