

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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**ACTION OFFICE:** OGC

**AUTHOR:** REP Marcy Kaptur  
**AFFILIATION:** REP  
**ADDRESSEE:** CHRM Nils Diaz  
**SUBJECT:** Davis Besse nuclear power plant

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
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**LETTER DATE:** 07/23/2004  
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MARCY KAPTUR  
MEMBER  
9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES  
VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING & RELATED PROGRAMS



5559

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3509

July 23, 2004

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Dr. Niles J. Diaz Ph.D.  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North Bldg  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Diaz:

Thank you so very much for speaking with me today about the difficulties experienced by the Davis Besse Nuclear power plant in Ohio, and how our region can best avoid a catastrophe in the future.

I am writing to ask your advice on how the likely fine that will be levied on the operating company, or some portion of it, can be dedicated to a purpose that will help our region avoid such nuclear incidents in the future. As you well know, twice in the last two decades this particular plant has been forced to shut down. The reasons for shutdown were due to serious system failures or major internal problems attributable to design flaws and administrative laxity in safety enforcement. Twice, workers in the plant have averted disaster.

In reviewing the reasons for these occurrences, it would be my suggestion that the fine, or a major portion of it, be directed toward the establishment of a nuclear training and engineering endowment program at the University of Toledo's Engineering School in partnership with management level-employees as well as the major skilled trades that work in the plant, such as the Boilermakers, the Electricians, and Plumbers and Pipefitters. We must institute in our region advanced training opportunities for operational personnel at all levels to examine, anticipate, and evaluate every aspect of the design and engineering peculiarities of this particular design.

Our region needs a freestanding training Center for Nuclear Plant Engineering and Operations specifically focused on that plant. Training and inquiry at all staff levels would provide an integrated, offensive capability our community does not possess.

Your advice on this request will be greatly appreciated. Our region needs to find a safer path forward.

Sincerely,

MARCY KAPTUR  
U.S. Representative

04 JUL 23 AM 10:35

5559

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9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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*Advised*  
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CHAIRMAN PER J.P.

