

Mark B. Bezilla
Vice President - Nuclear419-321-7676
Fax: 419-321-7582

10 CFR 2.202

Docket Number 50-346

License Number NPF-3

Serial Number 1-1400

February 3, 2005

Mr. James L. Caldwell, Administrator
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

Subject: Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS)
Mid-Cycle 14 Outage Reactor Head Visual Inspection Results
(Confirmatory Order EA-03-214)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated March 8, 2004 (DBNPS Log Number 1-4524), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued Confirmatory Order EA-03-214 modifying the DBNPS Operating License. Section IV.2 of the Order required the FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) to conduct a visual examination of the reactor pressure vessel upper head bare metal surface, including the head-to-penetration (also known as nozzle) interfaces; the reactor pressure vessel lower head bare metal surface, including the head-to-penetration interfaces; and the control rod drive mechanism flanges, using VT-2 qualified personnel and procedures during the Cycle 14 mid-cycle outage, and to report the results and evaluation of the inspections to the Regional Administrator, NRC Region III.

The visual examinations required by the Order have been completed. No evidence of reactor coolant leakage was found. The examinations did find a small build-up of material and stains on or near some of the control rod drive nozzles on the reactor pressure vessel upper head, including at the head-to-nozzle interfaces. The material involved is orange/brown in color and has little volume. Inspection records show that the material and stains existed before the current operating cycle, and appears to be iron oxide generated by typical atmospheric corrosion of the low alloy steel reactor vessel

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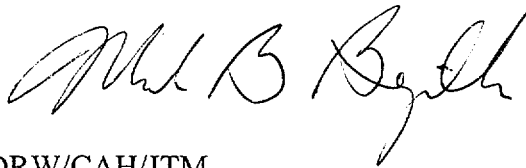
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head. The material and stains were likely formed at elevated temperatures during the Normal Operating Pressure/Normal Operating Temperature testing performed in Fall, 2003. The head-to-nozzle interface likely held moisture that was driven out during the testing. This resulted in the appearance of the iron oxide after the testing, but a lack of pronounced growth in the following operating cycle. Close inspection of several of the most affected nozzles did not reveal any material wastage, boric acid, or any other evidence that would be associated with reactor coolant leakage.

A bare metal examination of the reactor pressure vessel upper head will be performed again during the Fourteenth Refueling Outage (14RFO), currently scheduled for Spring, 2006. The results will be reviewed to determine if there are indications of changing material conditions.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Mr. Clark A. Price, Manager – Regulatory Compliance, at (419) 321-8585.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael B. Beryl".

DRW/CAH/JTM

Attachment: Commitment List

cc: NRC Document Control Desk
J. B. Hopkins, DB-1 NRC/NRR Senior Project Manager
C. A. Lipa, Chief – Branch 4, Division of Reactor Projects
S. A. Reynolds, Chairman – Davis-Besse Oversight Panel
C. S. Thomas, DB-1 NRC Senior Resident Inspector
Utility Radiological Safety Board

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Attachment

COMMITMENT LIST

The following list identifies those actions committed to by the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit Number 1, (DBNPS) in this document. Any other actions discussed in the submittal represent intended or planned actions by the DBNPS. They are described only for information and are not regulatory commitments. Please notify Clark A. Price, Manager – Regulatory Compliance (419-321-8585) of any questions regarding this document or associated regulatory commitments.

COMMITMENTS

DUE DATE

A bare metal examination of the reactor pressure vessel upper head will be performed again during the Fourteenth Refueling Outage (14RFO), currently scheduled for Spring, 2006. The results will be reviewed to determine if there are indications of changing material conditions.

14RFO

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