UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

November 23, 2011

Mr. David A. Lochbaum, Director
Nuclear Safety Project
Union of Concerned Scientists
P. O. Box 15316
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Thank you for your letter sent to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on November 4, 2011, filed in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) as Accession No. ML11327A126, with questions about the shield building design at Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. We recognize and share your concerns and questions associated with the identified cracks in the reinforced concrete shield building.

The NRC is reviewing the licensee's evaluation of the structural integrity of the shield building, and is performing a detailed inspection. The NRC's inspection began soon after the licensee found cracks in the shield building. The focus of the NRC is to ensure that the shield building can perform its safety function and that the licensee satisfactorily addresses NRC's questions concerning the building's structural integrity before restart. It is the NRC's plan to communicate its conclusion in writing to the public prior to restart.

As agreed during your call with my staff on November 15, 2011, your questions will be addressed in our public communications. The NRC recognizes your and the public's interest in these issues, including questions from several news agencies referencing your letter to us.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your continuing interest in this issue, as well as the public's health and safety. If you have any additional questions, please contact Ms. Viktoria Mitlyng, Public Affairs Officer, at 630-829-9662.

Sincerely,

/RA by J. L. Uhle for/

Cynthia D. Pederson
Acting Regional Administrator

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Letter to Mr. David A. Lochbaum from Ms. Cynthia D. Pederson dated November 23, 2011.

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