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December 2, 2011 L-11-359

10 CFR 50.55a

ATTN: Document Control Desk U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555-0001

### SUBJECT:

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Docket No. 50-346, License No. NPF-3

15. All

Response to Request for Additional Information on 10 CFR 50.55a Request RR-A35, Proposed Alternative to System Leakage Test Requirements (TAC No. ME6056)

By correspondence dated April 15, 2011 (Accession No. ML11109A119), FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) submitted a proposed alternative to certain requirements associated with the inservice inspection program for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station.

By correspondence dated November 3, 2011 (Accession No. ML113060557), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested additional information to complete its review of the proposed alternative. FENOC's response to this request is attached.

Additionally, piping and instrumentation diagrams are provided as Enclosures A and B, and a piping isometric drawing is provided as Enclosure C.

There are no regulatory commitments contained in this submittal. If there are any questions or additional information is required, please contact Mr. Phil H. Lashley, Supervisor – Fleet Licensing, at (330) 315-6808.

Sincerely,

Barry S (Allen

Attachment:

Response to 11/3/11 Request for Additional Information on Request RR-A35, Proposed Alternative to System Leakage Test Requirements

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### **Enclosures:**

- A. Piping and Instrumentation Diagram Reactor Coolant System
- B. Piping and Instrumentation Diagram Decay Heat Removal / Low Pressure Injection System
- C. Inservice Inspection Piping Isometric Pressurizer Spray and Surge Lines

cc: NRC Region III Administrator
NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Project Manager
Utility Radiological Safety Board

### Attachment L-11-359

Response to 11/3/11 Request for Additional Information on Request RR-A35, Proposed Alternative to System Leakage Test Requirements

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By letter dated April 15, 2011, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) submitted 10 CFR 50.55a Request RR-A35 for Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review and approval. By letter dated November 3, 2011, NRC staff requested additional information to complete the review. The requested information is presented in bold type, followed by the FENOC response.

- 1. For the subject auxiliary pressurizer spray system Test Zone DH16:
  - a. Provide a piping and instrumentation diagram and a piping isometric drawing.

### Response:

The examination boundary for Test Zone DH16, Pressurizer Spray Line, is from valve DH2735 to valve RC51. Piping and instrumentation diagrams are provided as Enclosures A and B. The piping isometric drawing is provided as Enclosure C.

## b. What is the length of the auxiliary pressurizer spray line between RC51 and DH2735?

### Response:

As determined from Enclosure C, the length of the auxiliary pressurizer spray line from the outlet of valve DH2735 to the inlet of valve RC51 is approximately 127 feet.

# c. How many welded connections and what type (butt, socket) are in this segment?

#### Response:

As determined from Enclosure C, there are 42 total socket welds in this segment. This includes the outlet weld of valve DH2735, the inlet weld of valve RC51, and 6 additional socket welds on a double root valve appendage.

# d. What is the expected operating pressure of this segment when the reactor coolant pumps are stopped and the decay heat removal pump is operating?

### Response:

As determined by calculation, the average expected operating pressure in this segment when the reactor coolant pumps are stopped and the decay heat removal pump is operating is approximately 97 pounds per square inch absolute (psia). For this calculation, the segment boundaries (with their respective operating pressures) are the outlet of valve DH2735 (125 psia) and the inlet of valve RC51 (68.2 psia). The test pressure cited in Request RR-A35 (77 psia) is located at valve RC51.

# 2. Has there been a plant or industry history of degradation of the subject segments in Test Zones DH16 and RC01 by mechanisms such as stress corrosion cracking or fatigue?

### Response:

For Test Zones DH16 and RC01, a review of FENOC's corrective action program (CAP) did not reveal any plant history of degradation due to stress corrosion cracking or fatigue. The review was limited to the period of 1999-2011 due to the current CAP database structure.

For Test Zones DH16 and RC01, a review of inservice inspection pressure test results from the same time period also revealed acceptable results with no stress corrosion or fatigue related leaks noted. Specific test results reviewed were from the years of 2000, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010.

Industry operating experience (OE), however, has shown the susceptibility of stress corrosion cracking in stainless steel. This OE includes instances of outer diameter initiated stress corrosion cracking (ODSCC) of the pressurizer auxiliary spray lines at the Calloway and Wolf Creek nuclear plants. FENOC evaluated the OE and determined that the susceptibility for ODSCC exists at Davis-Besse. In response to the OE, FENOC evaluated and implemented recommendations from the Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) interim strategy for identifying ODSCC. This guidance is considered a "Good Practice" recommendation per the Nuclear Energy Institute's "Guideline for the Management of Materials Issues [NEI 03-08]." Additionally, FENOC and its industry peers are collaborating on research to address stress corrosion cracking of stainless steels. The PWROG is leading this initiative that has thus far produced PA-MSC-0563, "Industry Roadmap – Stress Corrosion Cracking of Stainless Steels." FENOC continues to monitor industry activities related to ODSCC for incorporation into Fleet programs.





