Riley (OCA), Timothy

From: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 4:20 PM
To: 'Doug_Babcock@brown.senate.gov'; 'nick_butterfield@portman.senate.gov'; 'Ryan.Steyer@mail.house.gov'; 'Howard.Schulman@mail.house.gov'
Subject: NRC concludes Davis-Besse safe to restart
Attachments: DB-CAL3-11-001-Dec2-2011.pdf; DB- CAL-assurance shield bldg 3.docx

Please see the attached press release and Confirmatory Action Letter.
Please let me know if you would like a technical brief on this issue; I can arrange for phone briefings Monday.
I can be contacted at (b)(6) (Blackberry).
Thank you,
Tim Riley

Sent from an NRC Blackberry.
Tim Riley
(b)(6)

A-8

NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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December, 2 2011
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NRC CONCLUDES DAVIS-BESSE SAFE TO RESTART AND ISSUES CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has determined that the operators of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Corp. (FENOC) have provided reasonable assurance that the shield building is capable of performing its safety functions and that the utility can proceed with restarting the plant. The NRC's independent assessment evaluated a wide range of information such as technical details ranging from the size of the cracks, the utility's sampling and testing of the concrete in the building to determine the extent of the cracks, and its structural analysis. The plant is located in Oak Harbor, Ohio about 40 miles southeast of Toledo.

The NRC will hold a public meeting in which FENOC will discuss their technical analysis and explain why the plant is safe to continue to operate with the cracks in the shield building. The meeting will take place in the near future with details to be issued once finalized.

However, the NRC has issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to the operator of the plant, FENOC. The CAL details and confirms FENOC's agreement to take certain actions to monitor and ensure the cracks in the shield building continue to not adversely impact safety going forward. The NRC will review and evaluate FENOC's actions in response to the CAL in order to make sure they are thorough and complete.

The FENOC commitments to the NRC include:

- Determine and provide the root cause of the cracks in the shield building, corrective actions, and develop a long-term monitoring program.
- Select multiple areas in the shield building that have no cracks but are adjacent to known cracks to determine whether the area of the cracks has spread.
- Perform additional analysis in known cracked areas to determine whether the width of the cracks has increased.

Even though the NRC has concluded the shield building can perform its safety functions, the NRC will continue to inspect whether the shield building in its current condition meets all design requirements in the plant's license.

Failure to meet the commitments in the CAL may result in additional regulatory action if the utility does not provide reasonable assurance that the NRC can rely on the FENOC to meet the NRC's requirements and protect public health and safety.

On Oct. 10 the NRC was informed by FENOC that while conducting work to replace the Davis-Besse reactor vessel head its workers identified cracks in the shield building. The shield building is a 2.5 foot thick reinforced concrete building that surrounds a 1.5 inch thick steel containment vessel that encloses the reactor. The two buildings are separated by a 4.5 foot space.

The NRC will issue an inspection report documenting its review of this issue and the agency's conclusions 45 days after the inspection is complete.

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