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NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

July 25, 1979

Mr. Ivan W. Smith, Esq.  
Chairman  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing pursuant to the telephone conversation we had on the morning of July 19, 1979, relative to the issue of my personal standing to intervene as an interested person in the matter of the continuing operation of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Port Clinton, Ohio. I respectfully contend that I am such an interested party.

I believe that my personal interest stems from several basic factors, including the proximity of my home and work area to the Davis-Besse plant, my status as a customer of the Davis-Besse product, and the inescapable fact that many of my official duties as a member of the Ohio State Senate bring me into direct contact with this issue.

According to a Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company spokesman, the nuclear plant is located approximately 66 miles from the center of the City of Cleveland. I spend a substantial amount of my work time in the center of Cleveland each week on those days when the Ohio Senate is not in session. After I leave the downtown Cleveland area, CEI estimates that I then travel 11 miles from Cleveland to my home in Euclid. Often my workday takes me closer to the plant than the 66-mile range.

It is my contention then, that should there be a significant escape of radioactive matter from the Davis-Besse plant, at any time, whatever the cause, I would probably be affected. Regular weather patterns greatly increase the likelihood of my being affected by any such release of either contaminated gasses or contaminated liquid matter. Our prevailing winds blow from the west to the east, or from the northwest. Most of the stronger weather patterns that affect the Cleveland area come to us via the Detroit and Toledo area. It is usually a matter of just a few hours before their weather pattern becomes ours. This is particularly true when stronger weather sweeps along Lake Erie's shoreline.

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Additionally, should there be a release of contaminated water into Lake Erie, the natural west to east flow of Lake Erie would carry those materials in our direction. Since I have, as yet, not received specific information about any daily or periodic release of radioactive materials into the atmosphere, it is more difficult to speak to the issue of how I would be affected on a more regular basis.

I have been directly affected on an economic basis since the time Davis-Besse was closed this spring due to the defects found earlier this year. It is my contention that I definitely will have an economic interest in all future operations of the plant. Davis-Besse ownership estimated that purchased power this spring cost those of us who are customers about ten million additional dollars. I was charged more for the electric service delivered to me. If there is another disruption in service, I am sure that I would be forced to again bear my share of the cost for that disruption. The estimated cleanup cost at the Harrisburg plant will be \$320 million.

In September, 1977, there apparently was a major problem with the operation of the Davis-Besse plant. In the spring of 1979, the NRC compiled a list of corrections and improvements that would have to be made in short, as well as long run, prior to the time Davis-Besse could be fully certified. It is my contention that should there be similar problems in the future, that I would be adversely affected.

I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to hearing from the Board.

Cordially,

Tim McCormack  
State Senator

TM:cb

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