

October 23, 1979

The Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

Thank you for your October 3 communication forwarding a copy of Ms. Nancy Masucci's recent letter to you; we appreciate having the opportunity to comment on it.

Unit 1 at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station was returned to service over this past weekend following an automatic shutdown (scram) last week. The scram was caused when the turbine "tripped" off line and resulted in some equipment problems and a loss of offsite power.

This event was reported to the NRC's office in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and to State of Ohio officials; it is common practice to notify the State of all such non-routine occurrences. In addition, NRC inspectors made an "on-site" review of the circumstances surrounding this event and Toledo Edison Company's corrective measures.

Documents related to this occurrence will be placed in the Local Public Document Room which the NRC has established for the Davis-Besse facility. It is located in the Ida Rupp Public Library at 310 Madison Street in Port Clinton.

The low-level wastes resulting from operation of Davis-Besse Unit 1 routinely are packaged and shipped offsite for burial at a commercial low-level radioactive waste burial ground. None of these facilities are located in Ohio.

The high-level wastes resulting from the "burning" of the uranium fuel are contained in the used fuel elements which are stored in a large, swimming-pool like facility on the reactor site. As you probably are aware, the Government has not yet determined how these wastes ultimately will be disposed of.

358

555

We hope that this information will be helpful to you in replying to Ms. Masucci; however, if you do need additional information, please don't hesitate to let us know. In the meantime, as you requested, we are returning your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Fouchard
Director
Office of Public Affairs

bcc: SECY (3) #2822
CA (3)

355

OFFICE	OPA	OPA				
SURNAME	Fingering	JJFouchard				
DATE	10/23/79	10/23/79				