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April 19, 1980

TO: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region III

Attention: Tom Tambling

SUBJECT: Violation of Technical Specification 3.4.1 - Loss of Reactor Coolant (RC)
Flow

Davis-Besse Unit 1 Mode 5, Power (MWT) = 0 and Load (MWT = 0

In preparation for refueling operations (specifically the detensioning and removal of the head) the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) has been partially drained to establish a level in the vessel slightly below the flange. Core cooling is accomplished via the decay heat removal system.

At 1915 hours on April 18, 1980, an operator discovered that the level in the RCS had dropped significantly (to approximately 35-40 inches above centerline of the hot leg). At 1920 hours, the control room operator tripped the running decay heat pump (1-2) because of concern for possible loss of suction. The loss of RC flow is a violation of Technical Specification 3.4.1.

The cause of the drop in level was quickly determined and corrected and the proper RCS level was re-established using water from the borated water storage tank. Decay Heat Pump 1-2 was restarted at 1945 hours and 3000 gpm flow was established by 1949 hours.

The loss of RC inventory was from a vent valve in the decay heat system. This valve is located in ECCS Room 1. Exactly how this flow path was established is still under investigation.

The loss of RC flow caused no significant change in reactor core temperature and the discharge of reactor coolant into the ECCS room caused no significant radiation/contamination problems.

Luis Reyes, NRC on-site inspector, was notified at 1215 hours on April 19, 1980.

Terry D. Murray
Terry D. Murray
Station Superintendent
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
Toledo Edison Company

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