

50.346

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APR 16 1975

POOR ORIGINAL
50-346

Honorable Ronald M. Mottl
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Mottl:

Your letter of February 27, 1975, addressed to Congressional Liaison, Atomic Energy Commission, concerning correspondence from M. W. Schabitzer, dated February 23, has been referred to me for response. Mr. Schabitzer's letter requested you conduct an investigation into quality related problems that have been experienced at the Toledo Edison Company's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Unit 1, which is presently under construction near Port Clinton, Ohio.

In July 1974 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (formerly Atomic Energy Commission) Office of Inspection and Enforcement received allegations concerning the quality assurance program related to the painting of the interior of the reactor containment shell. A prompt investigation conducted by the NRC identified ten violations of quality assurance requirements which have since been resolved to our satisfaction.

No work has been done on the painting job since December 1973. Remaining to be completed are the painting of containment shell sections at the top of the structure and repair and repainting of any damaged or flawed areas. Since the plant is still about a year from being operational, there is adequate time for the work to be completed.

Before the plant can begin operation, the utility must obtain an Operating License from the NRC. Prior to issuing the license, the NRC - through its inspection program - must be satisfied that the paint work, as well as the other work at the plant, meets appropriate specifications and standards. The final inspection of the paint work will not take place until later this year after the work is completed.

On the television show, "The Cleveland Connection," there were two areas shown where the paint could be removed. The area where the larger sections of paint could be scraped off was not on the containment shell. It was on a painter's trolley at the top of the containment

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structure; a temporary lug had been cut off the trolley, causing a loosening of the paint. The second area shown in the film, however, was on the vessel wall and paint was shown being scraped off with a knife.

The NRC provided a spokesman who was interviewed as part of the television show. A copy of the prepared statement for that interview is enclosed for your use.

We trust that this information will be helpful in responding to Mr. Schabitzer.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Donald F. Knuth

Donald F. Knuth, Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosure:

1. Statement on Davis-Besse Quality Assurance Investigation, February 21, 1975
2. LTR from M. W. Schabitzer to Rep. R. M. Mottl, February 23, 1975

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Honorable Ronald M. Mottl

-2-

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Sincerely,

Donald F. Knuth, Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosure:
Statement on Davis-Besse Quality
Assurance Investigation,
February 21, 1975

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