

Docket No. 50-346

FEB 27 1973

POOR
ORIGINAL

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Your letter of February 6, 1973, to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, enclosing a letter from Ms. Kathy Kearns concerning the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant and the safety of nuclear reactors, has been referred to me for reply.

As you know, the civilian nuclear power industry has an impressive safety record. President Nixon pointed this out in his Clean Energy Message of last year in which he stated, ". . . the safety record of civilian power reactors in this country is extraordinary in the history of technological advances. For more than a quarter century -- since the first nuclear chain reaction took place -- no member of the public has been injured by the failure of a reactor or by an accidental release of radioactivity."

The industry's safety record is due in large part to the defense-in-depth concept applied to the construction and operation of nuclear power plants. This involves high quality materials and workmanship, and safety systems designed both to prevent serious accidents and to limit the consequences in the small chance that they occur. The safety features built into reactors are redundant which means that in the remote event one system fails to function properly, one of the backup systems would be activated.

In dealing with a technology as complex as that for nuclear power reactors, it can be expected that technical and scientific questions on which viewpoints differ will be raised. However, Congress has established a regulatory program which assures careful and knowledgeable consideration of these matters, a program which provides not only for comprehensive continuing review by a Government agency with expertise in the technology, but also for a hearing process wherein the views of the interested public can be considered in making safety decisions.

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Any application for a construction permit or operating license for a nuclear power reactor is subjected to an intensive review by the Atomic Energy Commission's (A.E.C.) Regulatory staff with the protection of the public health and safety and the environment as the main considerations. A copy of the Safety Evaluation on the Davis-Besse application prepared by the Division of Reactor Licensing (now the Directorate of Licensing) of the A.E.C. is enclosed for your information and use.

The A.E.C. is also required, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to perform an evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the proposed plant and balance the benefits derived against possible risk to the environment. In the case of the Davis-Besse plant, we have asked for comments on our Draft Environmental Statement. After these are received from interested Federal, State, and local agencies, and the public, a Final Environmental Statement, addressing all significant environmental matters, will be prepared by the A.E.C. and made available to the public.

Three booklets are enclosed which further describe the procedural aspects of the Commission's consideration of applications to construct and operate nuclear power plants, as well as our continuing review of a plant once it is in operation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

A. Giambusso

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation
2. "Licensing of Power Reactors"
3. "Atomic Power Safety"
4. "Nuclear Power and the Environment"
5. Rep. Ashley's Referral 2/6/73 note

DISTRIBUTION:

- Docket File JYore, ASLB
- RP Reading E.Hughes
- L Reading JCook, DR
- PWR-4 Reading OCR (3)
- J. O'Leary A.Schwencer
- Chairman Ray (2)
- E. G. Case
- M. Groff
- G. Ertter (DR#5245)
- A. Giambusso
- R. C. DeYoung

See Previous Yellow for Concurrence Chain

Copy sent PDR

OFFICE ▶	L				L:DDIR:RP	OCR
SURNAME ▶	MGroff:kmf				AGiambusso	
DATE ▶	2/ /73				2/ /73	2/ /73

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley 2

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Sincerely,

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

- 1. Check-List
- 2. Safety Evaluation
- 3. "Licensing of Power Reactors"
- 4. "Atomic Power Safety"
- 5. "Nuclear Power and the Environment"
- 6. JCAE Press Release No. 686
- 7. Rep Ashley's Referral 2/6/73 note

DISTRIBUTION

- Docket File JYore, ASLB
- RP Reading EHughes
- " L Reading JCook, DR
- MGroff Reading OCR (3)
- IO'Leary ASchwencer
- Chairman Ray (2) ~~Licensing Ass't will assume followup action.~~

AGiambusso ECASE
GERTTER (DR#5245)
MGroff
RCDeYoung
NBrown *

See Previous Yellow for Concurrence Chain

OFFICE ▶	DL	L:DD/RP	OCR		
SURNAME ▶	MGroff:kmf	AGiambusso	OCR		
DATE ▶	2/ 173	2/ 173	2/ 173	2/ 173	2/20/73

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Docket File

RP Reading

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MGroff Reading

J. O'Leary

PDR

Chairman Ray (2)

A. Giambusso

G. Ertter (DR#5245)

M. Groff

R. DeYoung

*N. Brown

J. Yore, ASLB

E. Hughes

*Licensing Asst. will assume followup action

Docket No. 50-346

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Your letter of February 6, 1973, to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, enclosing a letter from Ms. Kathy Kearns concerning the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant and the safety of nuclear reactors, has been referred to me for reply.

You may be interested to know that the nuclear industry has an impressive safety record. President Nixon pointed this out in his Clean Energy Message of last year in which he stated ". . . the safety record of civilian power reactors in this country is extraordinary in the history of technological advances. For more than a quarter century -- since the first nuclear chain reaction took place -- no member of the public has been injured by the failure of a reactor or by an accidental release of radioactivity." A copy of the President's message is enclosed for your information.

The industry's safety record is due in large part to the defense-in-depth concept applied to the construction and operation of nuclear power plants. This involves high quality materials and workmanship, and safety systems designed both to prevent serious accidents and to limit the consequences in the small chance that they occur. The safety features built into reactors are redundant in nature which means that in the remote event one system fails to function properly, one of the backup systems would be activated.

In dealing with a technology as complex as that for nuclear power reactors, it can be expected that technical and scientific questions on which viewpoints differ will be raised. The important point is that Congress has established a regulatory program which assures careful and knowledgeable consideration of these matters, a program which provides not only for comprehensive continuing review by a Government agency with expertise in the technology, but also for a hearing process wherein the views of the interested public can be considered in making safety decisions. As you may be aware, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy has recently announced that it is

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Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley 2

planning to hold public hearings on the general subject of nuclear reactor safety early in this session of Congress. Such hearings are positive steps which can make a definite contribution to improve decisionmaking on safety questions and to enhance public confidence in the overall regulatory process. A copy of the press release issued by the Joint Committee is enclosed.

Any application for a construction permit or operating license is subjected to an intensive review by the Atomic Energy Commission's (A.E.C.) Regulatory staff with the protection of the public health and safety and the environment as main considerations. The enclosed checklist giving a step-by-step description of the A.E.C.'s licensing process for nuclear plants will give you an indication of the extent of these reviews. A copy of the Safety Evaluation on the Davis-Besse application prepared by the Division of Reactor Licensing (the Directorate of Licensing) is enclosed for your review.

The A.E.C. is required, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to perform an evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the proposed plant and balance the benefits derived against possible risk to the environment. As you know, in the case of the Davis-Besse plant, we have asked for comments on our Draft Environmental Statement. After these are received from interested Federal, State, local agencies, and the public, a Final Environmental Statement, addressing all significant environmental matters, will be prepared by the A.E.C. and made available to the public. We will send you a copy when time.

Three booklets are enclosed which further describe the procedural aspects of the Commission's consideration of applications to construct and operate nuclear power plants, as well as our continuing review of a plant which is in operation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Peter S. Dwyer

AS
A. Giambusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

- 1. Check-List
- 2. Safety Evaluation

3.	"Licensing of Power Reactors"	DL	L:DDRP
OFFICE ▶	"Atomic Power Safety"		
5.	"Nuclear Power and the Environment"	MGroff:mc	AGiambusso
SURNAME ▶	JCAE Press Release no. 600	2/ /73	2/ /73
7.	Clean Energy Message		
DATE ▶			

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DISTRIBUTION

Docket File
RP Reading
L Reading
MGroff Reading
J. O'Leary
PDR

J. Cook
OCR (3)

Docket No. 50-346

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Chairman Ray (2)
A. Giambusso
G. Ertter (DR#5245)
M. Groff
R. DeYoung
*N. Brown
J. Yore, ASLB
E. Hughes

*Licensing Asst. will assume f
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Change made by [unclear]

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OFFICE ▶

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DATE ▶

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Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley 2

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for a media form

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The A.E.C. is required, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to perform an evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the proposed plant and balance the benefits derived possible risk to the environment. ~~As you know,~~ In the case of Davis-Besse plant, we have asked for comments on our Draft Environmental Statement. After these are received from interested Federal, local agencies, and the public, a Final Environmental Statement addressing all significant environmental matters, will be prepared A.E.C. and made available to the public. ~~We will send you a copy.~~

Three booklets are enclosed which further describe the procedure of the Commission's consideration of applications to construct nuclear power plants, as well as our continuing review of a plant in operation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Barry S. Boyd

A. Gianbusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Check-List
2. Safety Evaluation

3. OFFICE ▶	Licensing of Power Reactors"		
4. NAME ▶	"Atomic Power Safety"	DL	L:DDRP
5. DATE ▶	"Nuclear Power and the Environment"		
	JCAE Press Release No. 100	MGroff:mc	AGianbusso
	Clean Energy Message		

February 9, 1973

1. Mr. Hoffmann
A-241

May we have your advice on filing the attached letter in the Public Document Room?

Ref: Ltr Rep. Ashley to Chairman,
2/6/73
Docket No. 50-346

Jeanne Cook
Office of the Director
of Regulation

- To ↓
2. Jeanne Cook
OOB Bethesda

Approved for filing in PDR.

Document not to be filed in the PDR.

Martin R. Hoffmann
General Counsel

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970 - 326 - 849

FROM Rep. Thomas Ludlow Ashley (Ohio)

CONTROL NUMBER

5291

FILE LOCATION

TO Chairman

DATE OF DOCUMENT

2/6/73

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE

2/14/73

ACTION PROCESSING DATES

Acknowledged _____

Interim Report _____

Final _____

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

Chairman

Director of Regulation

Ciambuso

DESCRIPTION Referral Original

Copy

Other

Encl ltr fm Kathy Kearns, Bowling Green, Ohio, who has been reading about Davis-Besse and req info on federal regulations imposed on the building and operation of a nuclear power plant

REMARKS

Return incoming with reply.

REFERRED TO

DATE

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? _____

Ciambuso f/action

2/9/73

Cys: O'Leary

DO NOT DETACH THIS COPY

DIRECTOR OF REGULATION COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

Form HQ-32 (6-70) USA EC

TO: Ray OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

REPLY FOR _____ 's SIGNATURE

REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY: GM _____ DR _____

FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

FOR INFORMATION: GM _____ DR _____ COMMISSIONERS

REMARKS:

PLEASE SEND TWO COPIES OF REPLY TO OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

A. W. JACKSON
For the Chairman

DR- 291
31

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ORIGINAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

.....Feb. 6....., 1973

Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Sir:

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Ludlow Ashley,
M.C.

.....9th OHIO.....District.

REC'D
Date
Time

January 28, 1972

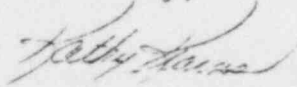
Congressman Thomas Ashley
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Congressman Ashley:

Recently, I have been reading about the building of a nuclear power plant in Port Clinton, Ohio. In one article that I read, it stated that if an accident occurred at the site it could possibly destroy a square area of one hundred miles. This is a frightening thought. I would like to know what federal regulations are imposed on the building and operations of a nuclear power plant.

I would appreciate any information that you could provide me with. Also if you know of any person that I could write for more information about the subject. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,


Kathy Kearns
248 Dunbar-Harshman
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403