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POOR QUALITY PAGES

Honorable Robert Taft, Jr.
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Taft:

I am pleased to respond to a letter transmitted by your office on September 28, 1970, from Miss Kathrine Pacolt expressing opposition to the proposed Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station at Port Clinton, Ohio.

The regulatory staff of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) is presently in the process of reviewing and evaluating the application of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company and the Toledo Edison Company to construct and operate the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. Before issuing any permit or license, the Commission must find that there is reasonable assurance that the facility can be constructed and operated without endangering the public health and safety.

Protection of the public health and safety has been and will continue to be the primary concern of the AEC's regulatory program. Our program for accomplishing this is described in the enclosed booklet, "Licensing of Power Reactors."

The Commission now has had about 10 years experience in the operation of licensed nuclear power reactors. This experience has shown that low-level wastes released during operation have been generally less than a few percent of authorized limits.

With respect to thermal effects of nuclear power plant operations, the Water Quality Act of 1965 provides a program through which water quality standards, including standards on thermal effects, are developed by the States and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Under this program, the Secretary of the Interior has approved water quality standards for Lake Erie. Further, the recently enacted Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970 requires applicants for a construction permit and operating license for any nuclear power plant which will discharge effluents into the navigable waters of the U.S. to provide the AEC with certification from the State or interstate pollution control agency, or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate, that there is reasonable assurance that the plant will not

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violate applicable water quality standards. The AEC would generally be prohibited from issuing any such permit or license without having received this certification.

Regarding raising the temperature of Lake Erie, the Toledo Edison Company announced on July 31, 1970, that the plant would employ a closed cycle cooling tower system. The Company expects only a limited discharge of water containing waste heat from the plant.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, each Federal agency is required to consult with appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies concerning major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and to prepare a detailed statement concerning, among other things, the environmental impact of the proposed action. An environmental report has been prepared by the Toledo Edison Company for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. A copy of the report has been sent to the Governor and the Council on Environmental Quality, and has been made available to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies for comment. After the conclusion of the comment period, the regulatory staff will prepare a detailed environmental statement which will include a discussion of any problems or objections raised and the disposition thereof. Copies of the statement will be forwarded to the Council and the agencies concerned and will accompany the application through the Commission's review process.

I also am enclosing a copy of "Nuclear Power and the Environment" which describes some AEC and utility programs concerned with research on the effects of releases of radioactivity and heated water from nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
Chris L. Henderson

Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

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Docket Files

Enclosures:

1. "Licensing of Power Reactors"
2. "Nuclear Power and the Environment"

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T59 SURNAME	VHWilson:mlm	PAMorris		CLHenderson	HLPrice	
R11, 12 DATE	10/13/70	10/17/70	10/21/70	10/23/70	10/23/70	10/26/70

FROM Rep. Robert Taft, Jr. (Ohio) (Miss Sydney Dine (Rep. Taft's office		CONTROL NUMBER 2825	ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE 10/8/70
TO OCR		DATE OF DOCUMENT 9/28/70	FILE LOCATION
DESCRIPTION Ltr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Other		ACTION PROCESSING DATES Acknowledged: _____ Interim Report: _____ Final: <i>10/1/70</i>	INFORMATIONAL COPY DISTRIBUTION ____ Chairman ____ ADNS ____ COM ____ GM ____ ADA ____ SS ____ Dep. Dir. ____ OGC ____ SLR ____ A. D. ____ RL ____ ML
Trans cy ltr fm Kathrine Pacolt expressing opposition to the proposed nuclear power plant at Port Clinton		7812	REMARKS Reply for signature of Dir. of Reg.
REFERRED TO	DATE	Is notification to the JCAE recommended? _____ _____ <i>COPY SENT PDR</i>	
Henderson f/action	10/2/70		
Cys: Morris Shapar			
<i>FDC (50-346)</i>			

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DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

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