Miss Donna Walker 4324 Denison #4 Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Dear Miss Walker:

I am responding to your December 16, 1970 letter to the President concerning the proposed Davis-Besse nuclear power plant at Port Clinton, Ohio.

Regarding your comments on checks and balances, the following information may be helpful. Before any utility can build a nuclear power plant in the United States it must obtain a construction permit from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. In addition, prior to operating the plant, the company must obtain from AEC an operating license which in effect certifies that the plant was built as promised and that it can be operated in a safe manner.

Each application for a permit to construct a nuclear reactor is extensively evaluated by the technical specialists in the Commission's regulatory staff and by the independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. The enclosed booklet, "Licensing of Power Reactors," describes the AEC's safety review of applications for the construction and operation of nuclear power plants and the AEC's continuing surveillance of operating plants. Also enclosed is a copy of "Atomic Power Safety," and the recently published booklet entitled "Nuclear Power and the Environment."

Subsequent to these safety reviews, a public hearing is held on each application for a construction permit. This hearing is held before a three-man atomic safety and licensing board at a location convenient to the area in which the reactor is to be built. Provision is made for full public participation in the hearing.

As you may know the Davis-Besse application is now being considered in a public hearing being held in Port Clinton, Ohio. The enclosed

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Safety Evaluation and the Detailed Statement on Environmental Considerations prepared by the Division of Reactor Licensing are provided for your information.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Morris, Director Division of Reactor Licensing

Enclosures:

- 1. Licensing of Power Reactors
- 2. Atomic Power Safety
- 3. Nuclear Power and the Environment
- 4. Safety Evaluation
- 5. Environmental Statement

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Julius H. Rubin For the Chairman

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