

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Docket File

Docket No. 50-346

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Thank you very much for the referral of Ms. Patricia A. Herrel's letter concerning the proposed Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. We are pleased to provide the following information for your response to her questions about the safety and environmental impacts of nuclear plants.

It may be of interest 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.

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.

Any application for a construction permit or operating license is subjected to an intensive review by the Atomic Energy Commission (A.E.C.) Regulatory Staff with the protection of the public health and safety and the environment as main considerations. A copy of the Safety Evaluation and a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Davis-Besse application prepared by the Directorate of Licensing (previously titled Division of Reactor Licensing) are enclosed.

8008061045

4
Copy sent PDR

LK

Honorable Thomas L. Ashley

Chairman Ray (2)
JFO'Leary

-2-

The A.E.C. is required, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to perform the evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the proposed plant and balance the benefits against possible risk to the environment as described in the Draft Statement. As required by NEPA, we have as requested comments on the Statement. After these comments are received, a final Environmental Statement will be prepared by the A.E.C. and made available to the public. We will send you a copy at that time. The final phase of evaluation of continuation of the construction permit will be public hearings held near the site by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to permit local citizens the opportunity to make limited appearances expressing their positions and to fully understand any issues to be settled.

The enclosed documents present the detailed review and evaluation by the Regulatory Staff which has only been possible through twenty-five years of research, development and operating experience.

We hope this information is adequate to enable you to respond to Ms. Herrel's letter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
A. Giambusso

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

Enclosures:

1. Letter dated January 29, 1973
2. President Nixon's Clean Energy Message
3. Safety Evaluation Report
4. Draft Environmental Statement

E.H.

*Licensing Assistant for follow-up action.

OFFICE ▶	L:FP-1	L:ASEP	DDRP	OCR	
SURNAME ▶	G.Knighton:mlg	D'uller	A.Giambusso		
DATE ▶	2/8/73	2/8/73	2/9/73	2/2/73	

DISTRIBUTION:
Docket File (w/viron)
DR Reading
L Reading
EP-1 Reading
EP-1 File
RP Reading
A. Giambusso
D. Muller
M. Malsch
OCR (2)
G. Ertter, (DR 5274)
J. Cook, DR

Docket No. 50-346

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the proposed Nuclear Power Station and the safety of nuclear reactors.

You may be interested to know that the nuclear industry has an excellent safety record. President Nixon pointed this out in his 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 of a century since the first nuclear chain reaction took place -- no one has been injured by the failure of a reactor or by the accidental release of radio activity." A copy of the President's message is enclosed for your information.

The industry's safety record is due in large part to the design and 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. Multiple safety features built into reactors are redundant in nature so that in the remote event one system fails to function properly, the backup systems would be activated.

Any application for a construction permit or operating license is subjected to an intensive review by the Atomic Energy Commission (A.E.C.) Regulatory Staff with the protection of the public health and safety and the environment as main considerations. A Safety Evaluation and a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Davis-Besse application prepared by the Directorate of Reactor Licensing (previously titled Division of Reactor Licensing) are enclosed for your review.

OFFICE ▶				
SURNAME ▶				
DATE ▶				

Honorable Thomas L. Ashley

- 2 -

The A.E.C. is required, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to perform the evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the proposed plant and balance the benefits derived against possible risk to the environment as described in the Draft Statement. As required by NEPA, we have requested comments on the Draft Statement from appropriate Federal, State, and local Agencies as well as the public. After these comments are received, a Final Environmental Statement will be prepared by the A.E.C. and made available to the public. We will send you a copy at that time. The final phase of evaluation of continuation of the construction permit will be public hearings held near the site by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to permit local citizens the opportunity to make limited appearances expressing their positions and to fully understand any issues to be settled.

The enclosed documents present the detailed review and evaluation of the Regulatory Staff which has only been possible through twenty-years of research, development and operating experience.

We thank you for your interest and hope that the information provided adequately answers your concerns.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:
As stated

OFFICE ▶	EP-1, L	ADEP	DDRP		
SURNAME ▶	GKnighton:mh	DMuller	AGiambusso	OCR	
DATE ▶	2/6/73	2/ /73	2/ /73	2/ /73	



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

Docket No. 50-346

Honorable Thomas Ludlow Ashley
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Ashley:

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the proposed Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and the safety of nuclear reactors.

~~You~~^{It} 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 radio activity." 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.

Any application for a construction permit or operating license is subjected to an intensive review by the Atomic Energy Commission (A.E.C.) Regulatory Staff with the protection of the public health and safety and the environment as main considerations. A copy of the Safety Evaluation and a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Davis-Besse application prepared by the Directorate of Licensing (previously titled Division of Reactor Licensing) are enclosed ~~for your review~~.

Honorable Thomas L. Ashley

- 2 -

The A.E.C. is required, under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to perform the evaluation of the potential environmental impact of the proposed plant and balance the benefits derived against possible risk to the environment as described in the Draft Statement. As required by NEPA, we have requested comments on this Draft Statement from appropriate Federal, State, and local Agencies as well as the public. After these comments are received, a Final Environmental Statement will be prepared by the A.E.C. and made available to the public. We will send you a copy at that time. The final phase of evaluation of continuation of the construction permit will be public hearings held near the site by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to permit local citizens the opportunity to make limited appearances expressing their positions and to fully understand any issues to be settled.

The enclosed documents present the detailed review and evaluation by the Regulatory Staff which has only been possible through twenty-five years of research, development and operating experience.

~~We thank you for your interest and hope that the information provided adequately answers your concerns.~~

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:

As stated

- 1 Incomm's letter
- 2 President's Clean Energy Message
- 3 Safety Evaluation Report
- 4 Draft Environmental Statement

Thank you very much
~~letter~~ refusal of Ms. B.
A. Heruel's letter concerning
proposed Davis-Besse Nu-
clear Station. We are
to provide the following info
for your ~~to~~ response to her ~~letter~~
about the safety and environ-
mental impacts of nuclear plant

It may of interest to
.....

A copy of the President's memo
is enclosed.

We hope this information is ad-
ded ^{enabled} you to respond to Ms.
letter.