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JAN 25 1972

Mr. Edward J. Bauser  
 Executive Director  
 Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
 Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Bauser:

This is in response to your letter of January 11, 1972, which included a letter from Congressman William Stanton transmitting the concerns of Mr. Bill Block of Chesterland, Ohio. Mr. Block was especially concerned about the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant located in Carroll Township, Ottawa County. I am enclosing staff comments in response to your request, and if I can provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
 Peter A. Morris

Peter A. Morris, Director  
 Division of Reactor Licensing

Enclosure:  
 Staff Comments w/encs.

bcc: Chairman Schlesinger  
 Commissioner Ramey  
 Commissioner Johnson  
 Commissioner Larson  
 Commissioner Doub  
 Secretariat (2)  
 General Manager (2)

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SURNAME ▶	DCrutchfield	KRGoller	RCDeYoung	PAMorris		
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Mr. Edward J. Sauser  
Executive Director  
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Sauser:

This is in response to your letter of January 11, 1972, which included a letter from Congressman William Stanton transmitting the concerns of Mr. Bill Block of Chesterland, Ohio. Mr. Block was especially concerned about the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant located in Carroll Township, Ottawa County. I am enclosing staff comments in response to your request, and if I can provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

L. Manning Muntzing  
Director of Regulation

Enclosure:  
Staff Comments w/encis.

bcc: Chairman Schlesinger  
Commissioner Ramey  
Commissioner Johnson  
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DATE ▶	1/19/72	1/19/72	1/19/72	1/19/72	1/20/72	1/ /72

COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER OF MR. BILL BLOCK

Information relative to Mr. Block's concerns may be found in the enclosed booklets entitled, "Licensing of Power Reactors", "Atomic Power Safety", "Nuclear Power and the Environment", and "Nuclear Power Plants".

Another specific source of information on the nature, scope and results of the safety review that was conducted prior to the issuance of the construction permit for the Davis-Besse plant is the AEC regulatory staff's Safety Evaluation, dated November 2, 1970. A copy of this is also enclosed. It should be noted that the review covered such areas as the site and its environs, the design of plant engineered safety features, hypothetical accidents and their mitigation and consequences, and the technical qualifications of the applicant and his contractors to design and construct a nuclear power plant.

The detailed review and evaluation by the regulatory staff at the construction permit phase is only the first step in the continuing review by the Atomic Energy Commission's regulatory staff covering the design, construction and operating features of the Davis-Besse plant. During the construction of the facility, members of the regulatory staff will periodically inspect the plant to assure that all of the requirements of the construction permit are met.

When the final design is completed and construction is entering its final stages, the owners of Davis-Besse will apply to the AEC for a license to operate the facility. This application will include detailed plans for safely operating the plant and coping with emergency situations as well as the final design of the reactor including such things as the engineered safety features and waste handling systems. Once again the regulatory staff will undertake a detailed review of the safety aspects of the plant and will publish its conclusions in its Safety Evaluation which is made available to the public.

If an operating license is issued, the review and inspection by the AEC does not stop. Periodically representatives of the regulatory staff inspect the plant to certify that operations are being carried out in accordance with the terms of the license. Therefore, the plant is under review by technical experts prior to the time construction is permitted, during construction, prior to issuance of an operating license and during operation.

The construction permit for the Davis-Besse plant was issued on March 24, 1971. Since that time, construction has progressed satisfactorily and the plant is now more than 13% complete.

Mr. Block raised concern about how nuclear plants, such as Davis-Besse are insured. A copy of a discussion of the Price-Anderson Act which further deals with nuclear liability insurance is also enclosed.

Enclosures:

1. "Licensing of Power Reactors"
2. "Atomic Power Safety"
3. "Nuclear Power and the Environment"
4. "Nuclear Power Plants"
5. Safety Evaluation
6. Price-Anderson Act