Docket No. 50-346

Mr. Scott Spehar 212 10th Street Port Clinton, Ohio 43452

Dear Mr. Spehar:

This is in response to your recent letter to Senator John Glenn in which you asked for information related to the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. Senator Glenn has requested the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to respond directly to you.

With regard to your question about the safety of the Davis-Besse facility, based on our periodic inspections and the licensing action record, we continue to have reasonable assurance that the Davis-Besse plant can operate safely within the limits imposed by its operating license. Also, the licensee has upgraded and is continuing to upgrade, the Davis-Besse plant regarding the post-TMI accident requirements established by the NRC to improve plant safety. These actions are similarly being taken on all nuclear plants. Our present evaluation of the licensee's performance indicates that there is a proper balance of licensee and NRC attention regarding the maintenance of plant safety.

The Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station entered commercial operation in July 1977. Since that time the station has been on-line approximately 52 percent of the time. This compares to an average for all nuclear plants of all types of about 65 percent. The lower availability is the result of outages principally caused by equipment failures. For example, Davis-Besse was shutdown in March 1982 for refueling. The outage was scheduled for about 75 days but necessary repairs to damaged steam generators extended the outage by approximately 100 days. However, since restart in September 1982, the plant has been available in excess of 90 percent.

With regard to the use of tax revenues, funding for construction and operation of Davis-Besse has been and is entirely through private sources. In addition, Toledo Edison Company is required, by regulation, to pay certain fees to the NRC to offset the cost of safety and licensing reviews and facility inspections.

Toledo Edison Company has no current application before the NRC for construction or operation of any additional nuclear power plants. However, Toledo Edison Company is a participant in the Perry 1 and 2 nuclear power plants being constructed near Painesville, Ohio. Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company is responsible for the construction of and will operate the Perry plants.

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Mr. Scott Spehar

Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company is also a participant in the Davis-Besse station.

I trust that I have addressed the general concerns you expressed.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Brian Dettelbach U.S. Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs

Senator Glenn

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Remarks:

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