



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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OFFICE OF
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

The Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

SERVED SEP 30 1986

Dear Senator Metzenbaum:

On September 4, 1986 you wrote to me to express support for the position urged by Governor Celeste in his letter of August 15, 1986 regarding the Davis-Besse and Perry nuclear power plants. On September 2, I replied to Governor Celeste's letter stating that significant staff resources were being devoted to considering the implications of the Chernobyl accident, the recent seismic event in northeastern Ohio, and the past problems at Davis-Besse. I assured him that the NRC would not authorize full-power operation of Perry or Davis-Besse unless and until all necessary findings had been made: that the public health and safety will be adequately protected and that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency. My letter further assured the Governor that the NRC staff was prepared to provide whatever support the State of Ohio might desire in carrying out its review of the Perry and Davis-Besse emergency evacuation plans. A copy of that letter is enclosed.

On September 4, 1986 the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issued an order barring the Commission from "any possible vote" on the Perry full power license pending further order of the court. On the following day, the Commission met to receive a briefing from its staff and to hear presentations from the parties concerning the Perry full power license. At that meeting, two representatives of Governor Celeste presented the views of the State to the Commission. These views will be taken into account in any Commission decision on the Perry license at such time as the court-imposed stay is lifted.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Roberts
Acting Chairman

Enclosure:
Letter to Governor Celeste
dated September 2, 1986

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20558

September 2, 1986

The Honorable Richard F. Celeste
Governor of Ohio
Columbus, OH 43266-0601

Dear Governor Celeste:

I am responding to your letter of August 15, 1986 in which you urge that the Perry nuclear power plant not be licensed for full power nor Davis-Besse be permitted to achieve full power operation until the State of Ohio has carried out a review of the adequacy of emergency evacuation plans for those two plants, and in which you withdraw your support and March implementing directive for evacuation plans for the Perry and Davis-Besse plants pending completion of that review.

The Commission is aware of your concerns regarding the implications of the Chernobyl accident, the recent seismic event in northeastern Ohio, and the past problems at Davis-Besse. We are devoting significant staff resources to consideration of these important issues. Be assured that the NRC will not authorize full power operation of these plants unless and until all necessary findings have been made: that the public health and safety will be adequately protected and that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency. We do intend, however, to authorize full power operation of these facilities if and when we make these findings. In this regard, the matter of full power licensing for Perry is scheduled for consideration at a Commission meeting on September 5, 1986.

The NRC Staff is prepared to provide whatever support the State of Ohio may desire in carrying out its review of the Perry and Davis-Besse emergency evacuation plans. I have asked James Keppler, NRC Region III Administrator, to coordinate any NRC involvement you may request, and to communicate directly with the team you have assembled. Our Staff will be prepared to address the emergency planning concerns contained in your letter when they meet with your review team.

I trust this letter is responsive to your concerns. If you have further questions regarding these matters, we will be pleased to address them.

Commissioner Asselstine does not agree with this letter.

Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech Jr.
Lando W. Zech Jr.

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