



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001
December 2, 1999

Mr. Guy G. Campbell, Vice President - Nuclear
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
5501 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449-9760

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-04, "POTENTIAL FOR DEGRADATION OF THE EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM AND THE CONTAINMENT SPRAY SYSTEM AFTER A LOSS-OF-COOLANT ACCIDENT BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION AND PROTECTIVE COATING DEFICIENCIES AND FOREIGN MATERIAL IN CONTAINMENT," DATED JULY 14, 1998; DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. MA4040)

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On July 14, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-04, "Potential for Degradation of the Emergency Core Cooling System and the Containment Spray System After a Loss-of-Coolant Accident Because of Construction and Protective Coating Deficiencies and Foreign Material in Containment," to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits. The NRC issued GL 98-04 to determine the status of containment coating programs.

In GL 98-04, the NRC staff specifically requested that the licensees provide information outlined below for each of their facilities.

- (1) A summary description of the plant-specific program or programs implemented to ensure that Service Level 1 protective coatings used inside the containment are procured, applied, and maintained in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and the plant-specific licensing basis for the facility. Include a discussion of how the plant-specific program meets the applicable criteria of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, as well as information regarding any applicable standards, plant-specific procedures, or other guidance used for: (a) controlling the procurement of coatings and paints used at the facility; (b) the qualification testing of protective coatings; and (c) surface preparation, application, surveillance, and maintenance activities for protective coatings. Maintenance activities refer to rework of degraded coatings, removing degraded coatings to sound coatings, correctly preparing the surfaces, applying new coating, and verifying the quality of coatings.
- (2) Information demonstrating compliance with item (i) or item (ii).

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- (i) For plants with licensing-basis requirements for tracking the amount of unqualified coatings inside the containment and for assessing the impact of potential coating debris on the operation of safety-related systems, structures, and components (SSCs) during a postulated design basis loss-of-coolant accident (DB LOCA), the following information shall be provided to demonstrate compliance:
 - (a) The date and findings of the last assessment of coatings and the planned date of the next assessment of coatings.
 - (b) The limit for the amount of unqualified protective coatings allowed in the containment and how this limit is determined. Discuss any conservatism in the method used to determine this limit.
 - (c) If a commercial-grade dedication program is being used at your facility for dedicating commercial-grade coatings for Service Level 1 applications inside the containment, discuss how the program adequately qualifies a coating for Service Level 1. Identify what standards or other guidance are currently being used to dedicate containment coatings at your facility.
- (ii) For plants without the above licensing-basis requirements, information shall be provided to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46b(5), "Long-term cooling" and the functional capability of the safety-related Containment Spray System (CSS) as set forth in your licensing basis. If a licensee can demonstrate this compliance without quantifying the amount of unqualified coatings, this is acceptable. The following information shall be provided:

If a commercial-grade dedication program is not being used at your facility for qualifying and dedicating commercial-grade coatings for Service Level 1 applications, provide the regulatory and safety basis for not controlling these coatings in accordance with such a program. Additionally, explain why the facility's licensing basis does not require such a program.

In response to GL 98-04, you provided a letter dated November 11, 1998, for Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1. This submittal provided the information requested by GL 98-04. Clarification was provided during a phone call that took place on September 19, 1999. The staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that all requested information has been provided; therefore, we consider GL 98-04 to be closed for your facility. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

Mr. Guy G. Campbell

- 3 -

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1364.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Douglas V. Pickett, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-346

cc: See next page

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Mr. Guy G. Campbell
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company

cc:

Mary E. O'Reilly
FirstEnergy
76 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44308

James L. Freels
Manager - Regulatory Affairs
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
5501 North State - Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449-9760

Jay E. Silberg, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts
and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20037

Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60523-4351

Michael A. Schoppman
Framatome Technologies Incorporated
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, MD 20852

Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
5503 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449-9760

James H. Lash, Plant Manager
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
5501 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449-9760

Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1

Robert E. Owen, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
Service
Ohio Department of Health
P.O. Box 118
Columbus, OH 43266-0118

James R. Williams, Executive Director
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
2855 West Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, OH 43235-2206

Director
Ohio Department of Commerce
Division of Industrial Compliance
Bureau of Operations & Maintenance
6606 Tussing Road
P.O. Box 4009
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-9009

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
DERR-Compliance Unit
ATTN: Zack A. Clayton
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43266-0149

State of Ohio
Public Utilities Commission
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0573

Attorney General
Department of Attorney
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43216

President, Board of County
Commissioners of Ottawa County
Port Clinton, OH 43252