

February 25, 2000

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

SUBJECT: NRC OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION AT
DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The NRC is in the process of conducting operational safeguards response evaluations (OSREs) at nuclear power reactors. I wish to formally inform you that the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station has been chosen for such a review scheduled for the week of March 6 through March 9, 2000. This confirms the previously conducted telephonic scheduling.

The primary objective of the OSRE program is to evaluate the readiness of licensees' onsite security forces to respond to an external threat. The "onsite security forces" are those specified and committed to in the Davis-Besse Physical Security Plan as the minimum number of armed responders always available to respond to a security contingency. This plan commitment could include those responders immediately available and those available at a later time. Additionally, physical modifications to enhance the protection of the plant, such as delay barriers or defensive positions, will have been included in the plan. A focus of these reviews is the priorities established between plant operations and security departments for protection of equipment and the defensive strategies used. These reviews complement NRC's licensing and regional inspection functions.

An OSRE team includes a nuclear systems engineer, reactor safeguards specialists, and three NRC contractors. Additional assistance is provided by an inspector from the NRC regional office and an NRC resident inspector.

The first day on site begins with an entrance briefing, which will provide an overview of the team's objectives and anticipated activities for the duration of the visit. Any licensee questions on methodology or other matters are then addressed so that a common understanding can be reached. Also, the suggested schedule for the onsite activities is discussed, and key licensee contact persons are identified. It is through these contact persons that arrangements are made for knowledgeable licensee personnel to escort the team members during the review.

After the entrance briefing, the OSRE team takes a general orientation tour of the protected area perimeter. Following the orientation tour, the team will meet with appropriate site security, operations, and/or engineering staff to select and walk down potential sets of targets to be used in response drills and table-top exercises. The team will observe response drills, which should be conducted using normal drill procedures and participants. Team participation will be limited

to scenario selection and drill observation. The team will also conduct several table-top response exercises with response team leaders. Additionally, the team will interview training staff and observe weapons familiarity and proficiency. The team nuclear systems engineer will also want to meet with additional plant operators to assure that security systems are not interfering with safe operation of the plant.

Please provide appropriate plant personnel support for the OSRE team during the scheduled evaluation. Specifically, security members will require escorts from the security training department, and the team systems engineer will need an individual familiar with safety equipment location and functional capabilities. The team will make every effort to schedule its activities so as to avoid disruption of normal plant operations. The time that various team members spend on site may vary, but generally will range from eight to ten hours per day. Some of this time is expected to be during evening hours.

If you have any questions regarding the conduct of the operational safeguards response evaluation program, which you wish to have answered prior to the team's visit, please contact David Orrik, Safeguards Section at (301) 415-3213, or James Belanger of the Region III staff at (630) 829-9858.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James R. Creed
Safeguards Program Manager

cc: C. Christensen, NRR
R. Rosano, NRR
D. Pickett, PM, NRR
D. Orrik, NRR
K. Zellers, SRI

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