



Kathleen Hill

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

Ladies and gentlemen:

As a resident of northeast Ohio and a customer of First Energy, I am writing to express my concern regarding the safety of the Davis Besse Nuclear power station in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

I understand the need for dependable and affordable electric power our region. Unfortunately, as the discovery of the rust hole in the Davis Besse reactor lid and last August's major blackout attest, First Energy has not recognized the importance of maintenance to safe and reliable production and distribution of electricity.

My family has had first hand experience in dealing with the Illuminating Company/First Energy's indifference to maintenance and repairs. A few years ago, when an insulator support at top of a pole in my backyard came loose, the power line dropped and caused an explosion that blew off the top of the pole. The Illuminating Company responded by sending an emergency crew who temporarily dealt with the problem by attaching a pink plastic extender to the broken insulator support and tying the extender to the pole with rope. We were told a regular crew would come later to make a permanent fix. Weeks passed with no crew. It rained and, of course, the rope started to loosen and we could see the insulator coming loose again. There is a transformer on this pole so we were doubly concerned. My mother placed two calls to the Illuminating Co. and we go no response. It was only when we placed a third call, to our city council representative, that the danger was addressed. The city of Parma has had numerous problems in recent years with the electric service provided by the Illuminating Co./First Energy—exploding transformers, blackouts for no obvious reason and power surges that have ruined appliances and wiring. Since our council rep had dealt with so many other complaints about the Illuminating Co., she knew who to call to get action. But it shouldn't require arm twisting to get a dangerous situation like this fixed.

As the blackout last August seems to have originated with First Energy as a result of its inadequate tree trimming, and was compounded by First Energy's non-functioning computers, I am even more concerned now that First Energy is bent on restarting Davis Besse within the next few weeks and there are still questions being raised about safety culture and backup systems. I urge the NRC to insist that the plant and First Energy comply with *every* safety standard before the first step is taken to restart Davis Besse and I hope the plant, should it restart, be monitored with extreme vigilance. Several million lives and our precious environment should not be placed at *risk again* because the company needs to improve its bottom line.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, *Kathleen Hill*

cc: Office of the Secretary, NRC

