

November 13, 1985

Docket No. 50-346

DISTRIBUTION

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Dear Mr. Williams:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO USE AN ALTERNATIVE PRESSURE TESTING METHOD -
DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

By letter dated October 18, 1985 (Serial No. 1199), Toledo Edison company requested approval to use an alternative inspection method to meet the requirements of Section XI of the ASME Code for inservice pressure tests at Davis-Besse. The alternative testing method, Instrumented Inspection Technique, is described in a topical report submitted to the NRC by HAFA International Incorporated by letter dated April 4, 1985 to demonstrate that the proposed alternative would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3).

We have reviewed and evaluated the proposed alternative testing method as discussed in the topical report. We have determined that the alternative testing method provides added assurance of system and component structural integrity and leak tightness when compared to conventional pressure testing and is therefore an acceptable alternative. We have also determined that the small leak detection and location capabilities of the alternative method make it applicable for intersystem leakage detection, and that the four-hour hold time requirement prior to visual inspection of the systems may be reduced to two hours. We therefore approve its use as an alternative testing method as requested in your letter.

Sincerely,

*ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JOHN F. STOLZ*

John F. Stolz, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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