

May 29, 2003
RN-03-027

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY ACTION

Licensee: First Energy Nuclear Operating Company EA-03-025
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
Docket No. 50-346

Subject: ISSUANCE OF FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION

This is to inform the Commission that one RED Significance Determination Process (SDP) finding will be issued today, to First Energy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) as a result of inspections at the Davis Besse facility. The RED finding, an issue with high safety significance, involved the control rod drive mechanism penetration cracking and reactor pressure vessel head degradation discovered in February and March 2002.

FENOC declined the invitation for a Regulatory Conference to discuss the preliminary RED issue, but submitted a written response dated April 24, 2003, which provided FENOC's additional perspective on the issue. FENOC acknowledged the performance deficiency and did not contest the finding of the safety significance determination with respect to the scientific evidence presented, the root cause(s), and the risk assessment determinations.

No enforcement actions are being taken at this time pending completion of ongoing inspections and investigations. The safety significance is one of the inputs into the final characterization and resolution of the apparent violations described in the Augmented Inspection Followup Report dated October 2, 2002.

The State of Ohio will be informed.

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