

MARCY KAPTUR

MEMBER
21st DISTRICT OH

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES
H.R. AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES



WASHINGTON OFFICE
1228 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3509
(202) 225-4146

DISTRICT OFFICE
FEDERAL BUILDING
234 SUMMIT ST. ROOM 719
TOLEDO, OH 43604
(419) 259-7500

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3509

March 13, 1992

Mr. Ivan Selin
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

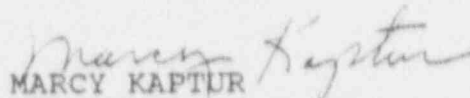
I would like to take this opportunity to relay to you some recently noted concerns of the Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy regarding the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant.

The Coalition has pointed to a report published last December by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the status of our nation's nuclear power plants. According to the Coalition, this report cited six safety violations on the part of the Davis-Besse plant. According to the enclosed Toledo Blade article dated February 27th, Jan Strasma, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, stated that the problems are not exclusive to Davis-Besse and are not serious enough to shut the plant down.

I would like to request a written response as to the safety violations cited in the NRC report and the status of efforts to correct any outstanding problems at Davis-Besse. I would also ask that you respond to me regarding the Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy's call to shut down Davis Besse until any safety violations are corrected.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress

MK:cvz

Enclosure

9204140249 920330
PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Group cites six safety violations at Davis-Besse

BY TOM TROY
BLADE STAFF WRITER

2/27/92

A local anti-nuclear group is calling for Toledo Edison's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station to be shut down until six alleged safety problems are corrected.

"Until the plant is closed and an independent assessment of safety factors is conducted, the health and safety of northwest Ohioans cannot be guaranteed," Dini Schut, a spokesman for the Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy, said this week.

The problems were cited in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission report on the nation's nuclear plants, which was published in December.

But an NRC official disagrees.

The shortcomings are not serious enough to warrant pulling the plug on the 860-megawatt generator, which provides electricity to about half of Toledo Edison's 283,000 customers, said NRC spokesman Jan Strasma.

Mr. Strasma said yesterday the problems affect "virtually all plants," and that the reactors' operators are supposed to have plans to fix them.

"It's not as if they're being ignored. And it's not something we feel is of sufficient magnitude that we require the plant to be shut down," Mr. Strasma said.

One of the safety issues cited is a potential for Davis-Besse's normal and emergency power supplies to fail simultaneously, causing a station blackout.

Toledo Edison spokesman Rick Kelly said the utility has acquired a third backup diesel generator to satisfy the NRC's concerns.

"It is now in the process of being tested. We're probably one of the first plants in the country to [add a third generator]," Mr. Kelly said.

The NRC also had called for improved quality assurance and maintenance of Davis-Besse's power-operated relief valves. These

were the valves that froze open at Three Mile Island, contributing to the 1979 accident there. Mr. Strasma said the valve correction at Davis-Besse was to be completed last November.

Mr. Kelly said last night that officials were not aware of any uncorrected problems involving the valves.

During a visit to the plant last October, NRC Chairman Ivan Selin praised improvements of the motor-operated valves.

Mr. Kelly said that NRC noted improvements in the plant's overall operations in its most recent 10-month evaluation, giving Davis-Besse the highest possible marks for emergency preparedness and security and for maintenance and surveillance.

The Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy, in the past an outspoken critic of the plant, has been quiet for several years.

Ms. Schut attributed the inactivity to the departure of founder Mike Ferner to become a Toledo city councilman and to the fact that "Davis-Besse has been... operating very well lately."

But she said the organization is worried about President Bush's national energy policy, which advocates a new generation of nuclear power plants and "one-step licensing," under which the site and the plant would be licensed simultaneously.

Nuclear power also has become an issue between two Democratic presidential candidates. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown opposes nuclear power, while former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas favors nuclear power.

"I'm very concerned that if Tsongas were to be our next president that he is pro-nuclear," Ms. Schut said, adding, "I'm probably not as afraid of Tsongas as I was of [former White House Chief of Staff John] Sununu. He is so pro-nuclear."