

October 23, 1996

Mr. John K. Wood
Vice President - Nuclear
Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
Centerior Service Company
5501 North State - Route 2
Oak Harbor, OH 43449

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION REPORT NO. 50-346/OL-96-02

Dear Mr. Wood:

This report refers to the NRC administered initial retake license examinations conducted by Mr. C. Osterholtz on August 29, 1996. The examinations were administered to employees of your company who had applied for licenses to operate the Davis Besse Nuclear Generating Station. At the conclusion of the examination process, preliminary findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Four senior reactor operator (SRO) candidates not previously licensed at Davis Besse Nuclear Generating Station were given retake examinations in the administrative area only, having previously passed the written, walkthrough, and dynamic simulator portions of the examination. All four applicants failed the retake examinations.

During administration of the retake examination, the SRO candidates for the second time demonstrated inadequate knowledge and abilities associated with the administrative responsibilities of the SRO position. Deficiencies were exhibited by more than one candidate in three different areas. These three areas are significant in that they involved reactivity addition (estimated critical position calculation), nuclear instrumentation operability determination (secondary heat balance calculation), and interpretation of plant piping and instrumentation drawings (review a tagout clearance). Details of these deficiencies can be found in Section 05.3 of this report.

We are concerned with the continued inability of your applicants to adequately perform the administrative tasks associated with the SRO position. As discussed during our telephone conversation on October 5, 1996, NRC's concerns focus specifically on the adequacy of your training program and the possibility that similar deficiencies may exist in plant operations. We understand that you are currently conducting an assessment of this issue. You are requested to respond to this letter within sixty days. In your response, you should provide the results of your investigation into these failures along with any similar demonstrated weaknesses in related plant operations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, with enclosures, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

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J. K. Wood

-2-

October 23, 1996

Should you have any questions concerning this examination, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Geoffrey E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-346
License No. NPF-3

Enclosures: 1. Examination Report No.
50-346/OL-96-02
2. Simulation Facility Report

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