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IE-01

January 31, 1997

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: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-346/96010(DRP)

Dear Mr. Wood:

On November 27, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Davis-Besse site. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Overall, we noted good unit performance and equipment material condition during the inspection period. In addition, good interdepartmental communications and teamwork were exhibited when plant personnel responded to operational problems.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified during this inspection period, however, instances were identified during the inspection where procedural controls appeared weak in discreet areas. For example, the "OP-16" procedure allows equipment lineup deviations for up to six months without conducting a safety evaluation. This has the potential to permit an unreviewed safety question to go unrecognized in the interim. Also, the tagout and clearance process did not always specify a final equipment configuration for return to service, often relying on shift supervisor prerogative. This contributed to the incorrect positioning of an emergency ventilation system valve during this period. The valve mispositioning was further aggravated by the failure of control room operators to recognize the mistake, even though several shift turnovers had occurred.

We are concerned that plant personnel may not be provided the necessary procedural guidance in these areas. Also, shift turnovers were not wholly effective. We understand that some of these potential vulnerabilities have been recognized and actions have been initiated to make appropriate improvements.

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J. K. Wood

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

Sincerely,

/s/ J. L. Caldwell

James L. Caldwell, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-346/96010

Docket No.: 50-346

License No.: NPF-3

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