

Public IE-01

November 19, 1996

EA No. 96-303

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 INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-346/96005 (DRP); NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Wood:

On August 14, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Davis-Besse site. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

In general, we noted that plant activities continued to be performed in a controlled, professional manner, utilizing a safety conscious approach. However, two violations of NRC requirements were identified concerning issues initially reviewed during previous inspections.

The first of these involved failure of personnel to understand and adhere to a procedure designed to prevent unauthorized heavy loads from being transported over the open reactor with fuel in the vessel. Ultimately, that failure coupled with weak communications, resulted in a 9-ton load actually being lifted over the open reactor vessel.

The second violation involved station personnel failing to perform a timely safety evaluation for the draining and abandonment of the Primary Water Storage Tank prior to that activity occurring.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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We are also concerned with the fact that training provided for control room operators in support of a recent technical specification change was ineffective. This change required that the volumes and boron concentrations for both boric acid addition tanks be considered in the aggregate to verify compliance with the technical specifications. When question about an apparent discrepancy in the concentrations control room operators were unable to verify compliance (a reactor engineer did subsequently verify compliance). In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

/s/ John A. Grobe

James L. Caldwell, Acting Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-346; 72-14

Enclosures: Notice of Violation  
Inspection Report 50-346/96005 (DRP)

\*See previous concurrence

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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 enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

James L. Caldwell, Acting Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-346

Enclosures: Notice of Violation  
Inspection Report 50-346/96005

cc w/enc1: J. P. Stetz, Senior Vice President - Nuclear  
J. H. Lash, Plant Manager  
J. L. Freels, Manager  
Regulatory Affairs  
State Liaison Officer, State  
of Ohio  
Robert E. Owen, Ohio  
Department of Health  
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Project Manager, NRR w/enc1  
B. L. Burgess, w/enc1  
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