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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
~~FIRST ENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY~~
PUBLIC MEETING ON DAVIS-BESSE

Meeting held on Tuesday, April 15, 2003, at
7:00 p.m. at Camp Perry, Clubhouse #600, Port
Clinton, Ohio, taken by me, Marlene S. Rogers-Lewis,
Stenotype Reporter and Notary Public in and for the
State of Ohio.

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
- Jack Grobe, Chairman, ~~for~~ Davis-Besse ~~facility~~ Oversight Panel
- William Ruland, Vice Chairman, ~~MC-0350~~ Oversight Panel
- Anthony Mendiola, Section Chief PDIII-2, NRR
- Jon Hopkins, Project Manager - Davis-Besse
- Scott Thomas, Senior Resident Inspector
- Christine Lipa, Branch Chief, Region III

1 MS. LIPA: Okay, welcome to
2 everybody, and we decided not to put up our agenda,
3 it's in the handout if you were able to get one in
4 the foyer on the way in. This evening's session
5 doesn't have a lot of structure to it. I just
6 wanted to welcome everybody, and I'll make some
7 introductions, and then we'll give you a summary of
8 what we talked about during the afternoon meeting,
9 and then we'll open up to public comments and
10 questions, so I'm Christine Lipa, and I'm a Branch
11 Chief in Region III office. I have responsibility
12 for the Inspection Program at Davis-Besse.

13 Why don't you go ahead and introduce
14 yourself?

15 MR. GROBE: Thank you. I'm Jack
16 Grobe. I'm the Chairman of the Davis-Besse Oversight
17 Panel for the NRC. I'm a Senior Manager in the
18 NRC's Chicago office. It's called Region III.

19 MS. LIPA: And then I'll
20 introduce the rest of the folks here. We have Jon
21 Hopkins. He's a Project Manager at NRR. He's
22 responsible for licensing activities at Davis-Besse.

23 MR. HOPKINS: (Indicating).

24 MS. LIPA: And then Tony Mendiola
25 is his Section Chief, and he's also in headquarters.

1 MR. MENDIOLA: (Indicating).
2 MS. LIPA: And then Bill Ruland
3 is the Project Director for Director at PDIII for
4 Region III plants.
5 MR. RULAND: (Indicating).
6 MS. LIPA: And Bill Ruland is new
7 to the panel. He replaces Bill Dean, who was
8 promoted and moved on to a different assignment
9 within the NRC, so Bill Ruland is now the new Vice
10 Chairman of the Oversight Panel, and what I would
11 like to do is just go over the purpose -- did I
12 forget somebody? Oh, sorry.
13 MR. GROBE: You forgot Doug.
14 MR. THOMAS: Doug, you forgot Doug.
15 MS. LIPA: Excuse me, Scott
16 Thomas is a Senior Resident Inspector.
17 MR. THOMAS: (Indicating).
18 MS. LIPA: And he's located here
19 at the Davis-Besse plant. That's his reporting
20 office every day on a daily basis, and also Doug
21 Simpkins is in the audience.
22 MR. SIMPKINS: (Indicating).
23 MS. LIPA: He's previously been
24 the Resident Inspector at Davis-Besse. He's now the
25 Senior Resident at Hatch Plant, and we asked him to

1 come back and help us out for a couple more months on
2 the Davis-Besse project, and then we also have a
3 couple of relatively new employees to the NRC in the
4 last year, Carla Rogue and Frances Ramirez.

5 MS. ROGUE: (Indicating).

6 MS. RAMIREZ: (Indicating).

7 MS. LIPA: And then Nancy Keller
8 was out in the foyer helping with handouts, so --
9 while I mention the foyer, I wanted to point out the
10 various handouts we have out there. We have our
11 monthly newsletter that we have been updating every
12 month to provide an update on what has been going on
13 from the NRC perspective and from the Utility
14 perspective.

15 We also have feedback forms so you can give
16 us comments on how the meeting goes.

17 We also have our slides that the NRC used
18 during their afternoon meeting, and there also were
19 some, I believe, leftover Utility slides from their
20 afternoon presentation today.

21 So the purpose of today's evening session is
22 just to inform everybody who's interested in the
23 status of the NRC's ongoing activities here at
24 Davis-Besse, and the goals are to brief you with the
25 results of this afternoon's meeting and then also to

1 receive your comments and answer your questions if we
2 can, and so we'll go ahead and start with Scott
3 Thomas who will give a summary of this afternoon's
4 meeting.

5 MR. THOMAS: I'll start off with a
6 brief summary of the NRC activities since the March
7 11th public meeting. We held a public meeting with
8 the licensee to discuss normal operating pressure
9 simulation results on April 4th. The NRC began a
10 safety culture, safety conscious work environment
11 inspection on April 7th. NRC inspectors completed
12 an inspection of the Containment Sump Mod on April
13 11th. NRC inspectors completed an Integrated Leak
14 Rate test inspection of the recently performed
15 Integrated Leak Rate test on Davis-Besse containment.

16 We have also closed several Restart Checklist
17 items which will be documented in Inspection Report
18 2003-04.

19 Continuing NRC activities include system
20 health reviews, safety sig -- excuse me, safety
21 significant program effectiveness reviews, corrective
22 action team inspection and resident routine
23 inspections.

24 Upcoming NRC activities include preparations
25 for upcoming NRC inspections to evaluate the -- the

1 under vessel head. This will be done following the
2 NOP test that the licensee is planning to do, a fire
3 protection inspection and a restart assessment team
4 inspection.

5 A summary of the 2:00 meeting that we had
6 that was conducted between the NRC and Davis-Besse
7 management, it was divided into the following major
8 topics. The first was operations restart readiness
9 assessment. This included -- this documented
10 approximately 1,100 Mode 4 restraints that are --
11 still need to be completed prior to transitioning to
12 Mode 4. Discussed upcoming Mode 4 and Mode 3
13 pressure tests that are planned by the licensee and
14 discussed operation staffing and focus on operation
15 leadership roles going forward.

16 The next area was design issue resolution.
17 Specifically discussed the repair or replacement
18 options for the two high pressure injection pumps at
19 Davis-Besse, the overall evaluation at the plant,
20 electrical distribution system, resolution of several
21 required air operated valve, operator modifications
22 or adjustments that are ongoing or have been
23 completed, and the completion of the evaluation of
24 the emergency diesel generated load table and
25 starting voltage and frequency response issues.

1 The next area is in containment health. The
2 licensee updated the panel on the status of a number
3 of ongoing efforts in the area of containment health.
4 These included emergency sump screen mods,
5 containment coating issues, the ~~KE~~ decay heat valve tank --
6 excuse me, the ~~KE~~ decay heat valve tank mod, containment air
7 cooler refurbishment efforts, evaluation of
8 environmentally qualified equipment in containment,
9 the evaluation of the effects of past refueling canal
10 leakage of containment structures, overall
11 containment integrity, containment health
12 inspections, placing and tensioning the reactor
13 vessel head, which has been completed, and the
14 insulation installation of the flus containment leakage detection
15 system.

16 The next area was the -- in the area of
17 Integrated Leak Rate test and preliminary results of
18 our inspection indicate that this was completed in a
19 successful manner.

20 The next area is Mode 5, safety cultural
21 assessment and independent safety culture survey.
22 The Mode 5 licensee safety culture assessment results
23 were given in three broad assessment categories.
24 These categories were policy or corporate commitment,
25 plant management commitment and individual

1 commitment. All of which were rated yellow by the
2 licensee. The grading scale consists of green which
3 is the best rating; white, yellow and red being the
4 worst.

5 The licensee also discussed recent safety
6 conscious work environment employee survey results.
7 They noted improvements in 24 to 26 areas. They
8 noted also that work was still needed in the areas of
9 demonstrating management commitment to safety
10 conscious work environment, improving confidence in
11 corrective action program, and the improving
12 confidence in the employee concerns program.

13 They also talked about major milestones that
14 are upcoming. They noted that they're making
15 progress in a number of areas including restoring
16 containment air coolers, two and three, which they
17 have completed. They've completed the scheduled
18 reactor coolant pump maintenance, completed emergency
19 sump installation, filled the reactor coolant system,
20 completed the flus leak detection system
21 installation, completed the containment Integrated
22 Leak Rate test, and the licensee summarized by saying
23 that they were making progress towards restart and
24 indicated that their present schedule supported the
25 reactor coolant system NOP test mid to late May with

1 start-up approximately one month later, so that's
2 pretty much the recap.

3 MS. LIPA: Okay, thanks, Scott.
4 Okay, so that's the summary of what we talked about
5 today and some recent activities, so we would like to
6 go ahead and open up for public comments and
7 questions, and we'd like to start with local members
8 of the public first, please, and limit your time to
9 five minutes. That's one of our rules that we're
10 trying to enforce.

11 MR. ARNDT: My name is Steve
12 Arndt, Ottawa County Commissioner. First off, I
13 want to extend a very strong and well felt feeling
14 that I have had with the NRC watching this entire
15 process for quite a number of months. The conduct
16 in how you conduct yourself has been extremely
17 professional. I also want to compliment especially
18 Mr. Grobe because as the Commissioners, or Mr. Witt,
19 who has served on the Restart Oversight Panel has
20 asked questions, Jack has always been there to help
21 us see from the NRC's perspective, so from that
22 standpoint we certainly are pretty much appreciative
23 of the NRC's professionalism and their accessibility.

24 A couple months ago I mentioned that from the
25 Commissioners standpoint the health, safety and

1 welfare of the general public was first and foremost
2 in our minds and concerns, and I was very happy that
3 the industry has allowed Mr. Witt to sit on the
4 Restart Oversight Panel, and I also made a request
5 several months ago, as well as Mr. Witt has, on
6 behalf of the County that we'd like to be able to
7 make sure that ongoing, once restart has been
8 accomplished and certainly if you were here today,
9 this afternoon, as well as the past several months
10 there has been significant progress made both on the
11 physical plant as well as the safety culture change
12 in the industry. Our concern was, is how do we
13 monitor the progress and make sure that these
14 programs remain intact long-term, and one of the
15 requests we had for the NRC was, what kind of
16 opportunities do we have for a dialogue hereafter
17 restart. The same request is made of the industry
18 is there an opportunity for the County to have
19 representation to make sure that we're also having
20 the ability to have some input and some close
21 observations, and I think for the general public I'm
22 very happy to be able to announce that both the NRC
23 and the industry has sought to -- and found, I
24 believe, a solution for, to have the local
25 involvement from the County. The NRC has indicated

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1 that there will be some ongoing opportunities for us
2 to have dialogue and questions and monitoring, making
3 sure that those programs that they worked very hard
4 and well spent many dollars to incorporate are
5 ongoing.

6 I'm also happy that I'm in receipt of a
7 letter from FirstEnergy. You know, they created
8 this new oversight from the FENOC for the nuclear
9 regulatory or from their nuclear power plants with
10 Mr. Bill Pearce, and we have the invitation now to
11 have an ongoing representation on that Nuclear
12 Oversight Board. We welcome that from both the NRC
13 and FirstEnergy. I think that's the kind of spirit
14 and cooperation that we'll be able to make sure they
15 continue to operate safely as well as making sure
16 that all the programs are adhered to in the future,
17 so from the public standpoint, I know they probably
18 have not seen those communicates, those were requests
19 that were made several months ago, and I'm happy to
20 be able to announce that those are being honored and
21 look forward to that continued dialogue we have had
22 with the NRC as well as with FENOC and FirstEnergy.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. LIPA: Okay, thank you.

25 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

1 MR. GROBE: Thanks, Steve. Just
2 so everybody is aware, when FirstEnergy gets to point
3 that they believe the plant is ready to restart, the
4 panel evaluates that recommendation. That doesn't
5 mean that the panel's work is done. The standard
6 that the panel has for making a decision whether or
7 not Davis-Besse is ready to restart is really
8 two-fold. The first is whether or not the panel
9 believes that the plant can be safely restarted, but
10 the second standard is that the panel believes the
11 plant can be operated safely in the future. To that
12 end, the panel will stay in existence for a
13 significant period of time after restart to continue
14 monitoring the plant and performance at the plant and
15 make sure that, in fact, a decision that was reached
16 by the panel was a correct one and the plant is not
17 only restarted safely, but continues to operate
18 safely, and we will continue to have periodic public
19 meetings, as we are today, continuing through restart
20 and well after restart.

21 MS. LIPA: Okay. Does anybody
22 else have any questions or comments for us?

23 MR. KING: My name is John King,
24 and I'm a retiree from Davis-Besse -- well,
25 FirstEnergy, and I took the buy-out program a few

1 years back, and I got enough money I could go
2 anywhere in this world and live, and I choose to live
3 here because this is one of the safest places I can
4 ever think of. I work in many industries, and there
5 is nothing -- no place I have ever been that's safer
6 than that place right over there, and I commend all
7 of the people who work there because they have looked
8 out after me, and all these other individuals to make
9 sure I did a safe job, always coming forward, saying,
10 hey, look what you're doing here, and the same for
11 me, I look after everybody else. That was the
12 culture that I have grown up with, with these people,
13 and now, I'm retired, I still believe that everybody
14 does their best, and -- or I wouldn't live here. My
15 wife wouldn't live here either, so -- and I still --
16 I'm working right now as a contractor, and there's
17 many opportunities to go other places, but I choose
18 to be here because I know this place is safe. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. LIPA: Okay.

21 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

22 MS. LIPA: Thank you for your
23 comments, John. Ready?

24 MS. PARK: Yes. Gentlemen, my
25 name is Virginia Park. I'm the Ottawa County

1 Recorder. I'm a Trustee in Bay Township, and I'm a
2 freelance writer. In my spare time, I spend a lot
3 of my energies working on job creation, and, more
4 specifically, in marketing endeavors that surround
5 job creation.

6 I've been reading, as nearly everybody in our
7 community has, about this pressure vessel head and
8 its deterioration, the repairs that have been made to
9 it, the status of the plant, the hearings, the
10 innumerable it seems, hearings, and, finally, I just
11 told myself that it was time for me to take a public
12 stance, and that stance is that it's time to restart
13 the plant, get it back on-line, start producing
14 energy and put this whole incident where it
15 belongs -- firmly in the annals of history.

16 I'm a lifelong resident of Ottawa County,
17 which means that I've spent all of my adult life
18 here. I'm aware of what's happening in the
19 community, perhaps better than some, and I know
20 what's good in the community and what's not so good.
21 Davis-Besse weighs in loud and clear on the good
22 side. They've been a good neighbor. They've been a
23 good employer. They've operated safely and
24 efficiently. Over the years, they've employed
25 thousands of people, and, even today, they remain our

1 largest employer and our largest taxpayer.

2 As County Recorder, I see firsthand all that
3 takes place in Ottawa County in the way of
4 development. When subdivisions are developed, when
5 houses are built, when houses are transferred, that
6 means that people here are working and making enough
7 money to afford those nice homes, and they certainly
8 have them. I've heard it said that for every
9 industrial job, seven or parts of seven other jobs
10 are created, and if that is true, then we must
11 certainly thank Davis-Besse for at least a portion of
12 nearly 6,000 jobs in Ottawa County and the
13 surrounding areas.

14 For me and for many others like me, this is a
15 question of economics, and the bottom line is,
16 frankly, this is a no-brainer. Let's put the plant
17 back on-line. Let's get on with the business of
18 doing good business in Ottawa County. Thank you.

19 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

20 MS. LIPA: Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 MR. GROBE: Just an observation or
23 two. Our business is safety, and just to make sure
24 it's clear, the plant won't be permitted to restart
25 until we're confident that it can restart safely, and

1 as you can see on those charts on the wall over
2 there, those depict work completed and work yet to be
3 done, and there still is yet a significant amount of
4 work that's yet to be done before restart of the
5 plant would be appropriate, and Davis-Besse continues
6 to make good progress in all areas of the plant and
7 our inspections continue to show that the work that
8 they're doing is in good shape. We'll continue to
9 inspect as they complete work, and as they get ready
10 for restart, but the plant won't be restarted until
11 we're convinced it can be done safely.

12 MS. LIPA: Anybody else have
13 comments or questions for us?

14 MR. CUFF: My name is Jeff Cuff.
15 I'm an Operations Senior Reactor Operator at the
16 plant and was asked on the way out -- or on the way
17 in as a news anchor or a news person was on their way
18 out why I was coming here, and I'm coming here
19 because I want people to understand that employees of
20 this plant, many of them not here today because
21 they're taking a well needed week's vacation in
22 preparation for the final pull to restart, but I want
23 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, that as
24 representative of operations, I also support the safe
25 restart of our plant, and I am working as I can as a

1 manager to promote to my people the safety culture
2 that they can without fear of any reprisals
3 whatsoever bring issues up to myself and to our
4 senior management team and to have those issues
5 adequately addressed and resolved, and if I don't
6 stand up at this microphone and tell you that I'm
7 here to support the safe restart of this plant and
8 nothing else, but that, you'll never know that, and
9 that's why I'm here today, and that's why I'm here
10 every month. Thank you.

11 MS. LIPA: Thank you.

12 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

13 MR. HIRT: Dave Hirt, Danbury
14 Township Trustee. I'd like to applaud the progress
15 that's been made so far and note that we've come a
16 long way from way back when this first occurred, and
17 it's interesting to note a lot of the changes that
18 have been made, positive changes, safe changes,
19 changes in safety culture, changes in machinery.
20 There's been a lot of good things done for the plant,
21 for the community, and for the structure of the
22 people here. There's been a lot of hard work and
23 effort put into this by people from all around, on
24 the public sector, on the Governmental sector.
25 There's been a lot from the State level, from the --

1 both from State, federal and local levels of
2 Government all have been involved with the Restart
3 Committees and things to get things restarted for
4 Davis-Besse. There's been a lot of hard work put
5 forth. I would like to thank all of the people --
6 all of you people today who have been instrumental
7 and well involved in that, but I would like to
8 applaud the progress that has been made and the
9 changes that have been noted, changes in safety
10 culture, changes in the hardware, changes in people.
11 All of it has been positive -- all of it has been
12 positive. Please continue with the order of your
13 progress for the restart of Davis-Besse. You've
14 been very diligent and bearing much public comment on
15 all sides of this. Just, please continue, but we're
16 geared for the restart of the plant, and we support
17 towards that direction. Thank you.

18 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

19 MS. LIPA: Thanks for your comments.

20 I did want to just clarify a little bit. I think
21 Jack went into this a little bit earlier, that the
22 Utility continues to correct things that need to be
23 corrected, and then the NRC is ready. We have our
24 Restart Checklist. We have numerous things that
25 we're waiting for, a certain amount of completion on

1 the Utility's part before we go in and make our
2 independent inspection and make a determination on
3 whether that Restart Checklist item is ready to be
4 closed, so we're not actually doing anything to speed
5 along restart or anything like you might have
6 thought. I wanted to make sure you understood that
7 we're the regulator, and we're when the Utility is
8 ready for us to come in and inspect. We'll be there,
9 and we'll make our assessment.

10 Anybody else have any comments or questions
11 for us?

12 MR. WARREN: Good evening. My name
13 is Richard Warren. I'm a business owner here in the
14 County, a property owner, and, again, I want to
15 commend the NRC for everything that's being done. I
16 feel that safety is very important.

17 I want to just reiterate what Virginia said.
18 There are six to seven people that are not working in
19 the plant that are affected by every employee out
20 there, and as a financial advisor in the area, I feel
21 that, you know, everything that is done is for the
22 positive of all the communities in the area -- three,
23 four, five counties around. I feel that people
24 would not work here or live here if they didn't feel
25 it was safe. I heard a gentleman say he feels it's

1 one of the safest places around. I agree with him,
2 and I want to reiterate, I have been looking forward
3 to the plant being opened, running safely and
4 efficiently like it was in the past and have many
5 more years of good operation. Thank you.

6 MS. LIPA: Thank you.

7 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

8 MR. REUTER: I'm Jack Reuter. I
9 live in Toledo. I have worked out at Davis-Besse
10 since '86, end of '86. I've seen a lot of changes
11 out there over the many years I have worked. I have
12 seen it go from an F86 to the last big shutdown to
13 No. 1 plant in the country -- well, very high to
14 down, again, to where it wasn't getting ample one
15 ratings. A lot of the reason was because they went
16 from an attitude that we can be the best to just
17 within the regulation boundaries is good enough, and
18 now I'm seeing that change back to just inside the
19 regulations is not good enough. I have seen a
20 safety culture change in the last half a year or so.
21 It's gone from that to start. I work in radiation
22 protection. We have been short of manpower for a
23 long time, and it's not because they haven't been
24 trying to get manpower, it's just the whole industry
25 as a whole is short of radiation protection

1 technologist. I'm in the Union, and I am a tech and
2 that, so I feel a lot of the struggle to try, but at
3 the start of the outage, we were short of techs then,
4 but yet work was pushed on to continue. Now, I see
5 we're short of techs. We have worked with the work
6 support center and see which jobs we can work, which
7 ones are most important and the rest stop.

8 Just recently, there was a condition that we
9 thought needed to be stopped, the work stopped, and
10 the work stopped. There is no questions other than
11 why. We explained the reasons, they agreed, and the
12 work stopped. We corrected what we found, and the
13 work then continued. There is a lot more control,
14 and the thing I guess I really want to add is the
15 workers have a lot more input. Start -- at the very
16 start of the outage, there was a schedule that's what
17 we worked to. Now, the workers have input, and we
18 tell them what we can do, what we can't do. They
19 listen. Now, thus being controlling where they were
20 before. They are in oversight mode, and, yeah, they
21 prod us along and encourage us to do a little more,
22 but that's what any good oversight would do or vice
23 versa, if they see that's not correct, they counsel
24 us and let us know that there is a safer way to do
25 it, and we do it that way.

1 One of the big things I have seen is this
2 nuclear operating procedure on decision making, which
3 hadn't been there before. It's kind of like Randy
4 Fast says, we have to go slow to go slow to go fast
5 because out of that procedure we usually find the
6 right decision that is definitely safe, and in the
7 long run we only have to do it once and that's very
8 important to me because rework means more dose
9 because it's more time in the area. I don't like
10 getting extra doses. We've got way too much already
11 and that. I've always thought the plant was safe.
12 Now, I say that because there was additional
13 protection. Was the head bad? Yes, the head was
14 bad, but yet I think the plant was safe, and the
15 question comes up, will we ever get back, will we
16 ever go back to just saying as long as we're inside
17 the regulations, that's good enough. I don't see
18 that. I see management's different commitment and
19 understanding of what can happen if you just stay
20 within the regulations and not stay as good as you
21 reasonably can, like a ~~LARS~~ ALARA -- you have to be as good
22 as you reasonably can. Thank you.

23 MS. LIPA: Thank you for your
24 comments.

25 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

1 MR. KOEBEL: My name is Carl Koebel,
2 Ottawa County Commissioner. Thanks to Rush
3 Limbaugh, the words ditto cover up a lot of what I
4 want to say, but there is one thing that has struck
5 me as I sat back here tonight. As I remember the
6 first meeting at the Oak Harbor High School, we were
7 talking about the replacement of the reactor head at
8 Davis-Besse and a good power plant, and it seemed at
9 that time that that was the goal, and if we look at
10 what's happened since then, as we heard today we've
11 seen an overhaul of a nuclear side of the power
12 plant. But, more importantly, we've seen the
13 development of a safety conscious work force that
14 came from the top down that allows the bottom to
15 speak up, and I think that's very important, and it
16 says a lot about both sides, the management and the
17 employees, and encourage NRC to continue working with
18 them and with us to see that Davis-Besse is started
19 as soon as possible. Thank you.

20 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

21 MS. LIPA: Thank you, Carl.

22 Anybody else have comments or questions for
23 us?

24 MR. OPFER: Members of the panel,
25 my name is Darrell Opfer. I'm Director of the Ottawa

1 County Improvement Corporation. I was waiting for
2 our President who is coming tonight to present a
3 resolution in support of the restart of the
4 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant. In his absence,
5 I'll read just a couple of the items that we passed
6 at our last Board meeting.

7 Whereas the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
8 has operated safely since opening on August 12th,
9 1977 with no member of the public or plant employee
10 having received a radiation related injury and with
11 no increase in background radiation, and whereas
12 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station employees have
13 worked more than 7.6 million hours without a lost
14 time industrial accident and the Davis-Besse plant
15 has consistently been rated in the top 25% of U. S.
16 Plants for nuclear safety, and whereas the
17 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station has cooperated
18 fully with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in
19 reporting, investigating, and developing a root cause
20 report on the nuclear pressure vessel head
21 degradation found in March of 2002, and whereas the
22 management of the FirstEnergy Company and the workers
23 at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station have
24 cooperated fully with the NRC, Davis-Besse Oversight
25 Panel, and demonstrated their restart readiness by

1 developing a unique safety culture assessment,
2 establishing a safety conscious work environment,
3 creating and implementing a corrective action
4 program, improving leadership competencies, problem
5 solving and decision making and instituting a
6 technically competent management team, and whereas
7 plant workers, operators and managers have worked
8 extremely hard to develop and then learn from a root
9 cause report to determine the proper solution and --
10 and determine replacement of the vessel head and have
11 modified the containment sump and strainer system,
12 have inspected and repaired plant safety systems
13 inside and outside containment. They have also
14 demonstrated their dedication in bringing the plant
15 back on-line through continued hard work fostering a
16 more safety conscious environment, resolving all
17 licensing issues with the NRC and readiness to
18 restart the plant.

19 Now, therefore, the Board of Trustees of the
20 Ottawa County Improvement Corporation supports the
21 hard work, diligence and the dedication of
22 Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station workers and company
23 managers to understand the problems which led to the
24 degradation of the reactor vessel head to address all
25 technical issues involving the vessel head

1 replacement and other reactor components, to
2 demonstrate appropriate safety focus and readiness to
3 restart the plant and operate it safely during the
4 remaining years under the current license and even in
5 years beyond. This resolution was adopted by the
6 Board of Trustees, 25 members of the Ottawa County
7 community, leaders and business owners, as well as a
8 number of associates or folks that are interested in
9 the economic development of Ottawa County.

10 As other folks have said, we appreciate your
11 willingness to serve on this panel, and,
12 particularly, to reiterate the interest of the County
13 in continuing to be involved in working with the
14 management of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station
15 to assure the continued safe operation of the plant,
16 and we thank you very much for the opportunity.

17 THEREUPON, the audience applauded.

18 MS. LIPA: Okay, thank you very
19 much.

20 Do we have any other comments or questions?
21 It's open to anybody. It doesn't have just to be
22 local public.

23 (NO RESPONSE).

24 MS. LIPA: Okay, well, if you're
25 sure.

1 Okay, well, we'll be available if anybody has
2 any questions, they want to come talk to us after the
3 meeting. Thanks a lot for coming.

4 MR. GROBE: Thank you.

5 MS. LIPA: The next meeting is
6 May 6th.

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9 THEREUPON, the hearing was adjourned.

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF OHIO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HURON)

I, Marlene S. Rogers-Lewis, Stenotype Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing, consisting of 27 pages, was taken by me in stenotype and was reduced to writing by me by means of Computer-Aided Transcription; that the foregoing is a true and complete transcript of the proceedings held in that room on the 15th day of April, 2003 before the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I also further certify that I was present in the room during all of the proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office at Wakeman, Ohio this day of , 2003.

Marlene S. Rogers-Lewis
Notary Public
3922 Court Road
Wakeman, OH 44889

My commission expires 4/29/04