

To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor  
From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coordinator  
Subject: June Monthly Report  
Date: July 5, 2012

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## Beans

Training: 1  
Drills: 1  
Meetings: 2  
Technical Assistance: 2  
Public Assistance: 0

Web Page Views: There were 23 page views in June.

## Coming Attractions

7/6 Working group  
7/10 URSB Meeting  
7/26 NEPAC meeting  
8/1 Working group  
8/8 Perry systems and EALs

## Facility updates

### **Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station**

Davis-Besse exited their refueling outage June 13 and operated for the rest of the month at full power.

On June 6 the plant found leakage on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch pipe weld just upstream of a reactor coolant pump. See Event No 48000.

The NRC determined that FENOC adequately determined the causes of the laminar cracking in the Shield Building . The causes included environmental factors (moisture and rapid temperature drops) associated with the 1978 blizzard, the lack of an exterior moisture barrier, and the structural design elements of the shield building. These causes were determined after a thorough review of weather records and other historical data, along with core bores and lab tests of the shield building concrete, and analytical modeling.

The shield building is safe despite the cracking. It can fulfill its safety functions, including withstanding earthquakes and tornados. The ADAMS Document Tracking Number is ML12173A023

## **Perry Nuclear Power Plant**

Perry operated at full power for

On June 7 Perry reduced power in order to isolate and suppress a fuel leak. During that time period a flow control valve in the reactor coolant system malfunctioned. The plant shut down rather than attempt a repair with the reactor functioning at a reduced power level. The plant restarted over the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and was back at full power by the end of June.

Perry had an alarm on the battery train that controls the High Pressure Core Spray on June 11 and declared it inoperable. This was traced to a faulty battery charger that supplied the power system. This has been repaired. See Event 48013.

There were two third party reports involving plant parts. See Event reports 47630 and 48042.

## **Beaver Valley Power Station**

### **Beaver Valley Unit I**

Unit 1 operated at full power for the month of June.

### **Beaver Valley Unit II**

Unit II operated at full power for the month of June.

### **Fermi II**

Fermi II Started June at full power but was performing maintenance June 25 when both reactor feed pumps tripped off. Plant operators manually shut down the reactor. See Event 48047.

There were two third party reports involving plant parts. See Event reports 47630 and 48042.

### **Fermi III**

There were no reports for Fermi 3

### Portsmouth Enrichment Plant

Portsmouth shut down the last cascade operations on June 7. All future reports for Portsmouth will be for cleanup operations.

### Activity

- 6/6 Working group – Agency and plant updates with highlights of the FEMA scheduling conference. The Beaver Valley Dry Run was discussed and last minute tweaks for the partial Exercise were put in place. The make up dry run will just be dose assessment practice.
- 6/14 Teletrix Demo at Columbus Fire Academy. Demonstration of radiological training equipment that can be used in exercises.
- 6/19 BV Evaluated Exercise. This went well with no issues noted for the State or Columbiana County. State discussion and information coordination were singled out as well played.
- 6/28-29 FRMAC outreach and drill with the state. Excellent overview of Federal support and the Ingestion Table Top Exercise generated extensive discussion that will be continued later at the RAT training in September.

### Office Issues

No issues at this time.

### News, NRC Reports, and Statistics

#### Operating Power Levels

June

Date	BV1	BV2	DB	Perry	Fermi2	
1	100	100	0	100	100	
4	100	100	0	100	100	
7	100	100	0	60	100	
11	100	100	0	74	100	
13	100	100	22	71	100	DB exiting Refueling Outage
18	100	100	100	1	100	
24	100	100	100	66	100	
25	100	100	100	98	24	Fermi refueling outage
26	100	100	100	100	0	

30 100 100 100 100 0

## Information Notices

Unless otherwise noted, these are ADAMS Accession documents, are publicly available, and will be accessible via the public web site Electronic Reading Room in the Agency Document Access and Management System (ADAMS),

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>

or to access generic communications files on the NRC Homepage:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/2012/>.

To access these documents use the ADAMS Accession number listed with the title.

This is in the format of : ML #####

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Ltr 06/04/12 Fermi Summary of 05/24/12 Non-Public Meeting

ADAMS Accession Number ML12156A323

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Summary of May 8, 2012, Public Meeting with FENOC Regarding a Proposed License Amendment Request to Modify Technical Specifications to Remove Mode Restrictions Associated with Division 3 Surveillance Testing

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12144A320

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1; and Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 – Review of 60-Day Response to Request for Information Regarding Recommendation 9.3, of the Near-Term Task Force Related to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12159A149

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Forthcoming Meeting with FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC)

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12158A400

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Ltr 06/08/12 Fermi Power Plant, Unit 2; NRC Security Baseline Inspection Report

05000341/2012403(DRS) - Cover Letter

ADAMS Accession Number ML12160A442

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Fermi 2 - Review of 60-Day Response to Request for Information Regarding Recommendation 9.3, of the Near Term Task Force Related to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12158A345

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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE REVIEW OF THE DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (TAC NO. ME4640)

ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML12160A016

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Ltr 06/11/12 Perry Nuclear Power Plant - Temporary Instruction 2515/177 Inspection Document Request

ADAMS Accession Number ML12166A190

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Fermi, Unit 2 – Closeout of Bulletin 2011-01, “Mitigating Strategies”

ADAMS Accession Number: ML12150A096

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RIS 2012-07, Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations, dated June 8, 2012

ADAMS Accession No.: ML120650174

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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON APRIL 17, 2012, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, CONCERNING REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NO. ME4640)  
ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML12157A231

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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON APRIL 26, 2012, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND FIRSTENERGY NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, CONCERNING REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC. NO. ME4640)  
ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML12157A238

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Perry Nuclear Power Plant - NRC Security Baseline Inspection Report

05000440/2012402(DRS) Cover Letter

ADAMS Accession Number ML12177A341

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DAVIS-BESSE 2012 009

ADAMS ACCESSION# ML12173A023

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PERRY: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION OF A SECURITY-RELATED GREATER THAN GREEN FINDING WITH ASSESSMENT FOLLOWUP AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION; NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 05000440/2012406(DRS)

ADAMS Accession No. ML12179A267

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Summary of the June 20, 2012, Open House to Discuss the Fermi Power Plant Unit 2 End-of-Cycle Performance Assessment –

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12179A300

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 1; and Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 – Closeout of Bulletin 2011-01, “Mitigating Strategies” (TAC Nos. ME6400, ME6401, ME6424, and ME6467)

ADAMS Accession No.: ML12160A245

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## News

Youngstown Vindicator

### **YSU speaker: Small nuke plants may be in Ohio's future**

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

By Burton Speakman

bspeakman@vindy.com

Youngstown

The next generation of nuclear-power plants will be smaller and safer, and Ohio companies may be asked to provide many of the components for them.

Small modular nuclear reactors, known as SMRs, were the focus of a round-table discussion Tuesday at the Sustainable Energy Forum at Youngstown State University. Construction and use of small nuclear plants are an area where the United States has the ability to "lead the world," said David Crawford, senior fellow with the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council, a think tank that promotes American nuclear-energy plants. Most nuclear plants such as Perry Nuclear Generating Station and Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, both in Ohio, generate 1,000 or more megawatts of power. One megawatt can power 1,000 homes for a year.

The SMRs produce anywhere from 100 megawatts to 250 megawatts of energy, according to forum participants.

Youngstown has the ability to help support the supply chain for expanded nuclear energy, Crawford said. The city has a sizable manufacturing base where many of the components for nuclear power plants could be made.

"SMRs will have a positive impact on job creation [and] economic growth and help meet clean-energy goals," Crawford said.

One of the advantages Ohio has is the number of companies that can produce the supplies needed for nuclear energy, said Nancy Horton of Energy Industries of Ohio, which is a nonprofit group focused on energy issues.

Horton said her group has identified companies throughout the state with the ability to supply materials for SMRs.

Much of the nuclear technology is underground on these smaller plants to improve safety, said Darren Gale, vice president of nuclear fuels for Babcock & Wilcox Nuclear Energy. The underground elements are safer from seismic events, plants crashing into the site and other potential disasters.

Most of the cost for a nuclear facility is for construction. The smaller size of SMRs helps utility companies afford to build them, said Mary Albin, program manager at Westinghouse.

"We haven't committed anything to SMRs, but we're watching the technology closely," Shaw said.

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portsmouth-dailytimes.com

### **Final cascade shut down at A-Plant**

June 7, 2012

FRANK LEWIS  
PDT Staff Writer

For the first time in more than 57 years, silence fell on the equipment of the uranium enrichment cascade May 30 in the former gaseous diffusion plant at the Department of Energy Portsmouth Site in Piketon. The last part of the complex network of machines was shut down to end operations in the X-326 Process Building.

"It's not in operation anymore," Fluor B&W Manager of Communications Jason Lovins said. "The cascade went into „cold standby“ in 2001, and went into „cold shutdown“ in 2005.

It is part of the older uranium enrichment technology that is outdated now. This is just part of the planning for the cleanup operations."

The X-326 Process Building, together with the X-330 and X-333 process buildings, housed the uranium enrichment cascade, nearly 100 acres in size. The cascade was a network of converters that processed a supply of uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>). The uranium was "enriched" at the atomic level to make it usable fuel for nuclear reactors. The converters were machines connected by an elaborate path of piping through which the UF<sub>6</sub> was fed in a heated gaseous state. Converters and related equipment grouped in "stages" were arranged in groups called "cells."

"This cascade and all of its supportive systems are a tremendous legacy of the engineering prowess and ingenuity of our communities and our nation," said DOE Site Lead Joel Bradburne, who attended the ceremonial shutdown. "More than half of a century of successes and achievements will never be duplicated."

Facility Shift Supervisor John Hutchison says the shutdown process has been significant to the workers, most of whom have been together for more than a decade.

"There are a lot of mixed emotions among the operators. They're sad to see the X-326 being shut down," Hutchison said. "There's a lot of activity to support operations."

When it was time to shut the cell down, Operator Russ Nickell verified personnel were in place on the cell floor and in the local control center. Watching the instrument panel, a small crowd waited for needles on the gauges to reach zero before Nickell pushed the "Motor Stop" button and motors on the cell floor came to a slow halt.

"That's it. Lights are out. We're done," Nickell said.

The enriched uranium was originally used by the U.S. Department of Defense. Later operations produced fuel for the U.S. Navy and civilian power plants.

The first cells of the cascade were brought online in 1954. Preparations for the shutdown began in January after completion of a cleanup and treatment program on the equipment. The last cell was one of the high-speed cells used to separate uranium from the lighter gasses.

Over the lifetime of the cascade, more than 1 billion pounds of uranium was processed, filling nearly 40,000 14-ton cylinders. The cascade was placed in "cold standby" status in 2001 in the wake of newer technologies and changes in market demand for enriched uranium.

The plant was placed in "cold shutdown" in 2005 as the Department of Energy began to plan for decontamination, decommissioning, and site cleanup. Fluor-B&W Portsmouth assumed cleanup contractor duties for the Department of Energy in March 2011.

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PortClintonNewsHerald.com

## **Tiny hole leaking radiation at Davis-Besse**

Jun. 8, 2012

Written by **John Seewer**

### **Associated Press**

TOLEDO -- Davis-Besse nuclear plant workers on Thursday were investigating what caused a pinhole-size leak found the previous evening spraying radioactive coolant, operators said.

Regulators and plant operators said the leaking coolant at the plant on Lake Erie near Toledo never got outside the building and posed no safety or health threat to the public. It's not clear how much coolant spilled out because it drained into the plant's collection system that is designed to contain any leaks, said Jennifer Young, a spokeswoman for the plant operated by a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp.

Workers discovered the leak in a pipe weld Wednesday night as they were getting ready to restart the reactor after a monthlong maintenance shut down. The plant was at full pressure at the time but the reactor was not yet operating, Young said. It's not known exactly when the leak began, but it had been less than 24 hours, she said. Such leaks are not uncommon, said Viktoria Mitlyng, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She said nuclear plants go through an extensive startup process after outages to look for problems. The leak Wednesday will be repaired, plant operators said.

Nuclear regulators are expected to decide next year whether to renew the plant's license. Several anti-nuclear groups have charged that the plant is unsafe.

The 35-year-old plant was shut down in the fall while its reactor head was replaced. At that time, crews found cracks in the outer concrete wall that's designed to protect the reactor. FirstEnergy said a lack of weatherproof coating caused the concrete to crack and traced the cracks back to a 1978 blizzard.

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Columbus Dispatch

## **Ohio nuclear plant says it has contained small coolant leak**

Radioactive fluid at Davis-Besse never escaped, operators say

*Associated Press*

Thursday June 7, 2012 2:58 PM

TOLEDO — Operators of a nuclear plant in Ohio say they've discovered and contained a pinhole size leak spraying radioactive coolant at the plant.

Nuclear regulators and plant operators say the leaking coolant at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant near Toledo never got outside the building and posed no threat to the public.

Workers discovered the leak yesterday as they were getting ready to restart the plant after a monthlong maintenance shutdown.

A spokeswoman for the plant operated by a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. says they don't know how much coolant spilled out, but it was contained by its collection system. The plant was last shut down in the fall while its reactor head was replaced. Crews found cracks in an outer concrete wall, but the plant was allowed to restart.

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## **Bipartisan House duo seeks probe of DOE for its support of USEC**

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Reps. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Michael Burgess (R-Texas) asked the Government Accountability Office today to investigate the Energy Department's steady support for U.S. Enrichment Corp. despite the company's shaky financial situation.

The department is attempting to provide millions of dollars for USEC's Ohio uranium-enrichment plant even though the company's credit rating was recently downgraded, its centrifuge technology has experienced glitches and the need for the plant is unclear, the lawmakers told GAO Comptroller General Gene Dodaro in a [letter](#).

"The GAO should immediately commence an investigation into DOE's ongoing support for USEC before we throw more money at a company whose junk bond status and junk technology make it better suited for the budgetary junk heap," Markey and Burgess wrote.

DOE has been considering ways to prevent the closure of the sprawling federal complex in Piketon, Ohio, including buying enrichment centrifuges from USEC ([Greenwire](#), May 23).

USEC has repeatedly warned that it will be forced to shutter the plant without another injection of federal funds. If developed, the Ohio plant would be the first to use domestic gas centrifuge technology to produce low-enriched uranium for reactors. USEC ultimately hopes to secure a \$2 billion federal loan guarantee.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu earlier this year assumed \$44 million worth of depleted uranium "tails" that USEC owned, which freed up money for the company to continue operating the Ohio facility ([E&ENews PM](#), Jan. 17).

DOE is now poised to assume an additional \$82 million worth of tails, or depleted uranium, Markey and Burgess said.

GAO needs to review the federal "subsidies" in light of USEC's "precarious financial condition," they said.

Standard and Poor's downgraded USEC on May 15 to a CCC+ rating and placed the company on a watch list for negative ratings. The company's market capitalization is now worth less than \$100 million, and USEC could be delisted from the New York Stock Exchange, the pair said.

GAO should also review the Obama administration's assertion that the Ohio plant is key to complying with international treaties that require the United States to have a domestic source of uranium enrichment to produce tritium for nuclear weapons, they said.

USEC's centrifuge technology uses foreign parts and may not be considered "domestic" under the DOE's own terms, Markey and Burgess said.

The lawmakers also asked GAO to review whether DOE is transferring too much federally owned uranium into the market and adversely affecting the domestic uranium market. DOE's decision may have violated several federal laws, they added.

The House recently rejected an amendment to the fiscal 2013 energy and water development spending bill from Markey and Burgess that would have stripped \$100 million from DOE's budget meant to support USEC. The Senate fiscal 2013 energy and water spending bill also contains research money for USEC.

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2012/06/12/4>

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## **DOE directs more funding to embattled USEC plant**

Gabriel Nelson, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

The U.S. Department of Energy this morning said it will steer another \$87.9 million to the embattled U.S. Enrichment Corp. uranium plant in Piketon, Ohio, to keep the massive complex open through the beginning of December.

The company, which was spun off from a federal government program in 1998, has been a key source of uranium for both civilian and defense purposes. But its Piketon plant has run into problems in recent months as its credit rating has been downgraded, glitches have surfaced in its new centrifuge technology and lawmakers -- both Democrats and Republicans -- have questioned the need for more of the uranium it processes.

USEC claims a gas centrifuge demonstration will be ready to produce low-enriched uranium by the end of next year, making it the first domestic model to do so.

Under the \$350 million research and development venture and the new cash infusion announced today, DOE will temporarily own much of the equipment used in the project, including all of the 120 new centrifuges, and it will get a royalty-free license to use USEC's technology. DOE said these conditions would minimize losses to taxpayers in the event the company fails.

"Under the new agreement, we will be able to move forward with this critical research, development and demonstration effort while ensuring strong protections for the American taxpayers," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in a statement.

As a first step, Chu has authorized the agency to assume responsibility for disposal of \$87.9 million worth of the plant's depleted uranium "tails," on top of the \$44 million the agency assumed this January. Doing so will free up enough capital at USEC for the company to stay afloat for the next six months, DOE said.

Later phases of the project will bring the total taxpayer bill to \$280 million, with USEC adding \$70 million of its own through a new subsidiary called American Centrifuge Demonstration LLC that will be jointly run with Toshiba Corp. and Babcock & Wilcox Co. Congress has not yet appropriated money for this purpose, though the House and the Senate Appropriations committees have passed bills that would fund the uranium plant through fiscal 2013. The federal funding remains contentious, but during a conference call with reporters after the announcement, a DOE official said the agency is hopeful Congress will agree to fund the project.

Today's deal won praise from some lawmakers in Ohio. The company employs more than 1,600 people there, mostly in a rural area south of Columbus that has been hit hard by the economic downturn ([E&E Daily](#), April 26).

"I commend the Department of Energy and USEC for working together on a path towards job creation and greater accountability," Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) said.

"This federal investment will ensure that the Piketon community is on a path towards continued job creation and economic growth."

But the project remains contentious, with critics on both ends of the political spectrum. Just yesterday, in anticipation of this morning's decision, Reps. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Michael Burgess (R-Texas) sent a terse [letter](#) to GAO Comptroller General Gene Dodaro asking the watchdog agency to start an audit ([E&ENews PM](#), June 12).

Markey was quick to criticize the new agreement, calling it a "complete and total waste of taxpayer dollars." In the eyes of critics, the government should not shoulder the risk of failure when USEC will reap the profits if its technology works.

Today's agreement "underscores the need for GAO to investigate the legal and policy basis for the continued bailouts of a clearly failing company," Markey said in a statement.

USEC is also hoping to get a \$2 billion loan guarantee from DOE, but the agency official told reporters the application remains on hold as USEC attempts to show that its technology is commercially viable. If the technology works, the public will benefit because the government won't need to expand its own uranium enrichment capacity, the official said.

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/06/13/3>

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Ohio.com

Akron Beacon Journal

### **FirstEnergy restarts nuclear plant, finds no new cracks**

Associated Press

Published: June 15, 2012 - 07:29 AM

OAK HARBOR, OHIO: An Ohio nuclear plant along Lake Erie is back in action after shutting down for more than a month for scheduled refueling and maintenance.

The subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. that runs the Davis-Besse plant in Oak Harbor says the facility began producing electricity this week. The shutdown that started May 6 included a series of safety inspections at the site.

During the previous shutdown last fall, crews had found cracks in the outer concrete wall that's designed to protect the reactor. The company says the latest inspections indicated those cracks have not grown, and no new cracks were found.

Opponents say the cracks are a sign the plant is unsafe.

FirstEnergy says the wall is serving its purpose safely and reliably.

#### **Find this article at:**

<http://www.ohio.com/news/break-news/firstenergy-restarts-nuclear-plant-finds-no-new-cracks-1.314230>

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### **Debate swirls around analysis of cracks at Davis-Besse plant**

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, June 22, 2012

Federal regulators yesterday agreed with FirstEnergy Corp.'s conclusion that a 1978 blizzard cracked the outer concrete shell of the Davis-Besse nuclear plant in Ohio -- despite concerns that the company's analysis is flawed.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission yesterday accepted FirstEnergy's assessment that driving wind and rain from the storm and the absence of exterior sealant on the shield

building allowed moisture to seep into the structure's concrete walls, where it froze, expanded and caused cracks to develop ([E&ENews PM](#), Feb. 24).

The NRC also approved FirstEnergy's proposal to conduct additional tests on the building and apply a sealant to the structure in Oak Harbor, about 20 miles southeast of Toledo.

But Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) says the Akron-based utility's analysis is incomplete and downplays safety risks. FirstEnergy is pinpointing the storm that struck 34 years ago to detract from other possible causes and secure a 20-year extension for its operating license, which expires in 2017, he said.

"The NRC has accepted FirstEnergy's explanation despite the fact that neither FirstEnergy nor the NRC can explain how wind-driven moisture from the blizzard of 1978 could have possibly caused damage around the entire circumference of the shield building, instead of only where the wind had 'driven' the rain into the building," Kucinich said in a statement.

The cracks were discovered last year by workers at the plant who were replacing a corroding lid or "head" on the reactor. The contractors cut a hole through the plant's 2-foot-thick concrete shield building and found a 30-foot crack in the concrete structure, which is surrounded by a steel containment vessel designed to protect the reactor from natural disasters and terrorist attacks ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 24).

Subsequent investigations revealed other fractures in the 224-foot-tall shield. The reactor was not operating when the cracks were found, and the NRC in December allowed the plant to begin operating again.

Jennifer Young, a spokeswoman with FirstEnergy, said a team of structural concrete and causal analysis experts worked with plant workers to consider an "exhaustive list of potential cracking causes," and the company is standing by its conclusion.

Even so, Kucinich said, the report doesn't explain how wind and rain that struck the portion of the shield building facing the southwest caused cracking throughout the entire structure.

"There was damage around the entire circumference of the building," Kucinich said.

"How could damage around the entire circumference possibly be caused by wind-driven moisture when, as FirstEnergy admits, 'the predominant wind direction' was from the southwest? It doesn't make sense."

David Lochbaum, director of the Union of Concerned Scientists' Nuclear Safety Project, said FirstEnergy didn't explain why the cracks weren't discovered when workers cut into the primary containment in 2003 to replace the reactor vessel. If the cracks existed at that time, they should have been identified and reported, he said.

FirstEnergy also failed to study surrounding buildings at the Davis-Besse plant that had the proper sealant. "If you had tested those surfaces to determine whether the cracks were caused by a lack of coating, then you could have gotten more data," Lochbaum said.

Lochbaum said it's crucial to pinpoint the exact reason for the cracking to make sure the building shield is strong enough during emergencies to prevent the release of radioactive material.

"If the problem is something else and it's not the blizzard of '78, then that fix may not protect against the problem that's causing the cracking," he said.

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2012/06/22/6>

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## **Davis-Besse's cracked shield building is safe the NRC has concluded**

Published: Thursday, June 21, 2012, 7:26 PM Updated: Friday, June 22, 2012, 6:58 AM  
By **John Funk, The Plain Dealer**

Federal regulators **have accepted** FirstEnergy Corp.'s analysis that the Great Blizzard of 1978 damaged the massive building housing the Davis-Besse nuclear reactor - but not enough to keep the plant idle.

In a report issued amid a chorus of critics Thursday, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission agreed with the company's analysis that the storm of Jan. 25-27, 1978, which began as rain, drove moisture deep into bare concrete walls of the building, where it froze within a day or two.

The cracks were not discovered **until last year**, when contractors were using high-pressure water jets to cut a large hole in the building to install a new lid on the reactor. A similar operation in 2003 did not reveal any internal cracking in the massive building, a fact that critics are using to blast both the company and the NRC.

"Why must FENOC trace the cracking back to January 1978 and not to the "heavy shading event" of 2005, a sarcastic David Lochbaum, of the **Union of Concerned Scientists** asked. "Because old, small cracks are easier to pencil-whip away than new, small cracks."

The 280-foot-high structure, which was built between 1970 and 1977, has never been waterproofed; and despite the NRC's earlier demands to know why, the agency appears to now have accepted the company's reason that waterproofing was simply not called for in the original plans. Yet other nearby concrete buildings are waterproofed.

The report agrees with the company's conclusions that the myriad cracks in the building's 2.5-foot reinforced concrete walls have not weakened it to the point that it cannot function - though it is weaker than it was designed to be and will need regular inspections, said Charles Casto, the head of the NRC's Midwest division.

"The question is does the building maintain the strength required. Our conclusion is that it does meet the strength requirements for safety. We have independently verified that the building is safe," he said.

Most of the cracking in the concrete occurred along heavy steel reinforcing bars buried inside the wall. When the company calculated the strength of the damaged wall, it conservatively left out the strength of the steel bars themselves, said FirstEnergy spokesman Todd Schneider. Those calculations showed that even then the building still would have a reserve safety margin.

"Our next step will be to perform calculations and testing to determine the exact capacity of the rebar in cracked areas," he said. "This information will help us determine what additional actions, if any, are required."

FirstEnergy must this summer paint the colossal building with a waterproof coating. And it has until December to come up with calculations proving that the walls can still meet its licensing specification that it can stand up to an external impact of 4,000 pounds per square inch.

Meanwhile, the agency is preparing a new set of inspections to make sure the coating is applied and the company continues to take bore samples of the building's concrete --

and samples from the walls of nearby buildings that the company said have been waterproofed.

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich and an anti-nuclear group, Beyond Nuclear, separately have questioned the storm thesis, pointing out that if that were true, the cracks would all be on the side of the southwest side of the building where the storm wind pushed the hardest.

The report notes that there are more cracks on that side but that cracking has been found elsewhere as well.

Casto, of the NRC, said because of its shape the cylindrical building would be uniformly soaked, in a storm of that magnitude.

Kucinich, on the floor of the U.S. House, called the company's reasoning a "snow job and a fable."

"Can they [FirstEnergy] be believed when they claim a snowstorm 34 years ago created cracks that appear today? Are buildings all over northern Ohio falling apart today because of the blizzard of '78? Or is this just another in a series of desperate lies used to keep a plant going that should either be shut down or massively repaired," he said in **prepared remarks**.

Schneider said FirstEnergy turned to a team of the best independent concrete experts in the industry to help figure out what caused the cracking.

The NRC will schedule a public hearing on its report in August.

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## **Is Obama's support of Ohio plant securing the nation or his own political position?**

Hannah Northey and Manuel Quinones, E&E reporters

Published: Tuesday, June 26, 2012

The Obama administration's decision to funnel millions of dollars to an embattled uranium enrichment plant in southern Ohio has triggered debates over whether the facility is crucial to national security or simply an avenue for the president to tout job creation in a battleground state during an election year.

Lawmakers, anti-nuclear groups, environmentalists and nonproliferation experts are poking holes in the administration's argument that the \$5 billion American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio, is key to bolstering national security and complying with international treaties. Instead, they say President Obama is trying to shore up political support in Ohio -- a swing state that every winning presidential candidate has carried since 1964.

"I realize it's an election year; I realize Ohio is important," Henry Sokolski, the executive director of the Nonproliferation Education Center, said during a panel discussion in Washington, D.C., yesterday. "But that's politics, and we should be able to say that. That's what's mostly going on here."

The Energy Department earlier this month announced a plan to support the American Centrifuge Plant, which the U.S. Enrichment Corp. is currently leasing. DOE is assuming responsibility for disposal of millions of dollars' worth of depleted uranium "tails" to free up capital for USEC to continue operating the plant, which has experienced technological setbacks and shaky investment.

DOE currently manufactures tritium using low-enriched uranium in a commercial reactor in Tennessee.

The announcement came one day before Obama and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney gave dueling economic speeches in different corners of the state that touched on rebuilding American prosperity and job creation and growth in the energy industry ([E&ENews PM](#), June 14).

The Obama administration and supportive lawmakers on this issue, particularly in Kentucky and Ohio, maintain the plant is key to complying with international treaties and providing a domestic source of uranium enrichment, which is needed to make tritium for nuclear weapons.

That position has been affirmed by top federal officials, including the U.S. solicitor general, the Department of State's legal adviser and general counsel for the Commerce, Defense and Energy departments. Without that capability, they say, the United States would be dependent on other countries for nuclear weapons production and fuel for Navy submarines.

Critics say the president's support is nothing more than political posturing and have likened the project to the more than half-billion-dollar loan guarantee DOE gave failed solar manufacturer Solyndra. Members of Congress, anti-nuclear advocates and environmental groups have also pointed out that USEC's credit rating has been downgraded and that glitches have surfaced in its new centrifuge technology.

Ed Lyman, a senior scientist with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the federal government has a large stockpile of highly enriched uranium that it could draw from to provide fuel for both naval reactors and tritium production reactors for decades. DOE, he said, is "coming up with everything but the kitchen sink to justify this plant."

### **A question of policy**

Some critics are questioning whether DOE has taken a clear look at how much tritium and highly enriched uranium is really needed and whether alternatives to the ACP plant exist.

Sokolski expressed anger at lawmakers who tout the national security argument. "This gives inefficiency and national security a really bad name because it's so cynical," he said.

A main point of contention is the Obama administration's assertion that USEC's competitor, European firm Urenco Ltd., cannot enrich uranium that would later be used in Tennessee to make tritium for nuclear weapons. The Obama administration has said Urenco uses foreign-owned technology that is covered by a "peaceful use" agreement under treaties in its plant about 5 miles east of Eunice, N.M., and cannot provide such a service under existing treaties.

Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), who has repeatedly tried to block funding for the USEC project, says the Obama administration's national security argument is bogus and has circulated a [federal report](#) that casts doubt on USEC's sole ability to enrich uranium to produce tritium for weapons.

The report found that treaties that apply to Urenco can be interpreted in various ways and concluded that not enough is known about DOE's policies to confirm whether Urenco is barred from enriching uranium for tritium production.

Confusion exists because the agreement forbids the use of Urenco's technology from providing highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons, but it is not clear whether that

agreement prevents Urenco from using low-enriched uranium to make tritium for weapons.

"It is unclear whether the DOE position is one based on what it judges to be legal requirements, policy considerations, or additional unspoken or informal international understandings," the Congressional Research Service wrote.

Rep. Steve Pearce (R-N.M.), whose district houses the Urenco plant, has joined Markey in opposing the project. Both lawmakers have also raised the point that USEC's Ohio plant uses foreign parts ([E&E Daily](#), May 18).

But members of the Ohio congressional delegation, the administration and DOE have dismissed those arguments. The debate transcends party lines, with many small government Republicans who have railed against help for companies like Solyndra now supporting aid for USEC. House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) are among those backing the project.

Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, said in a June 5 "Dear Colleague" letter that Urenco is "foreign-owned and uses foreign-owned technology, international agreements prevent the U.S. government from purchasing enriched uranium from it for military or defense purposes."

Drew Walter, a staff member with the House Committee on Armed Services who works for Turner, said during the panel discussion yesterday that it would be "harmful and dangerous" to stop investing in uranium enrichment or to depend on foreign countries to provide such sensitive services.

Walter applauded DOE's decision to provide millions of dollars to support USEC's Paducah, Ky., plant, currently the country's only source of enriched uranium to make tritium. Allowing the facility to continue operating for an additional year will also allow DOE to stockpile tritium, he said.

But Walter also said keeping the Kentucky plant open is only a "stopgap" and the American Centrifuge Plant will ultimately provide a path forward for America's nuclear arsenal. Divesting in key components of weapons construction and manufacturing is "harmful and dangerous," he added.

"The ability to enrich uranium domestically is perhaps one of the most fundamental parts of creating nuclear weapons," he said.

### **'Red herring'**

Obama's support for USEC and the ACP plant has drawn the ire of environmental and anti-nuclear groups, nuclear experts and lawmakers who question whether the country's tritium and highly enriched uranium stockpiles are indeed insufficient.

Add to the mix the uranium mining industry and its backers who worry that plans to prop up USEC will hurt extraction efforts by dumping too much federal uranium into the marketplace for use in power plants.

Jon Indall, head of the group Uranium Producers of America, called the national security argument a "red herring." He said, "To keep investors interested [in mining] is a bit of a problem when you have DOE competing with you."

Indall said he wants the administration to commit to compromise limits on stockpile releases, or the amount of uranium DOE releases into the marketplace.

"The UPA's major interest is that the Department of Energy limit their barter and transfers of federal uranium inventories to 10 percent of annual U.S. requirements," he

said. "Any amounts in excess of this percentage will have an adverse impact on the domestic uranium and conversion industries."

Uranium has been selling for about \$50 a pound for several months, something that is already making it harder for projects to get off the ground.

"They're concerned about the price dropping out of the market because of USEC's activities," Rep. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) said during an interview, "and I think they're right."

Sokolski's group joined environmental and taxpayer protection groups in urging lawmakers to support measures to scrap aid for USEC or "limit transfers of free uranium to this troubled company."

Earlier this month, the House voted down an amendment by Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) to limit uranium sales or transfers. Markey and Burgess, in an unlikely alliance, also failed to remove \$100 million from DOE's budget meant to support research of uranium enrichment technology at the Ohio plant.

Burgess said help to USEC could "destroy the uranium market in the rest of the country in order to preserve their business model, which has required a lot of propping up."

Like Lummis, Burgess represents a state with significant uranium extraction operations. Companies wanting to increase U.S. mining to feed nuclear power plants don't want existing stockpiles flooding the market.

### **Jobs and politics**

David Albright, president of the nongovernmental Institute for Science and International Security, said the federal government needs to maintain a centrifuge capability to understand activities within countries like Pakistan, North Korea and Iran, which are pursuing nuclear weapons through centrifuge technology.

But Albright said justifying support for USEC for the production of tritium "seems a little odd" and could alienate people and draw strong opposition.

The argument also seems to defy the administration's vow to eliminate nuclear weapons, he said. "That's where it's hard to be sympathetic," Albright said. "We're supposed to be getting rid of nuclear weapons and tritium needs to be replenished, but the idea is to reduce the weapons and the need to produce tritium."

Albright said it is unclear whether DOE considered alternatives to supporting USEC, and there may be ways to reduce the need for tritium and the creation of nuclear weapons. An independent review of DOE's decision to support USEC might also be useful, he said.

Andy Kear, an assistant professor of politics and environmental science at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, said the issue boils down to jobs and politics.

Supporting the Ohio plant scores Obama points and steals fodder from Romney to attack the president on the jobs front, he said.

"To me, it's a fairly straightforward frame, a way of defining this as 'We're in support of jobs in Ohio,'" Kear said. "It'll be interesting to see how Governor Romney responds to that."

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/2012/06/26/1>

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## Plant Reports

Part 21	Event Number: 47630
Rep Org: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Licensee: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Region: 1 City: WILMINGTON State: NC County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: DALE PORTER HQ OPS Officer: JOHN KNOKE	Notification Date: 02/01/2012 Notification Time: 15:33 [ET] Event Date: 02/01/2012 Event Time: [EST] Last Update Date: 06/06/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 21.21(a)(2) - INTERIM EVAL OF DEVIATION	Person (Organization): WILLIAM COOK (R1DO) JONATHAN BARTLEY (R2DO) JAMNES CAMERON (R3DO) JEFF CLARK (R4DO) PART21 GROUP ()

### Event Text

#### PART 21 REPORT - FAILURE OF CRD COLLET RETAINER TUBE/OUTER TUBE WELD

The following information was received via facsimile:

"During a recent refurbishment of a Control Rod Drive (CRD) performed by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) for a domestic customer a 360 degree failure of the collet retainer tube fillet weld was identified. This weld is part of the CRD 919D258G003 Cylinder, Tube and Flange (CTF) assembly. The collet retainer tube fillet weld was performed in 1983 and subsequently assembled into a Group 003 part number 919D258G003 CTF. This G003 CTF assembly was assembled into a CRD in 1995 and placed into service in 1996. GEH continues to investigate the cause(s) of the failed fillet weld. Once the cause of the fillet weld failure is determined, GEH will review the extent of condition of this failure as well as the consequences to determine if a reportable condition exists.

"There were no adverse effects on the CRD's operation observed due to this failure.

"This 60-day interim notification, in accordance with 10CFR Part 21.21(a)(2), will be sent to all BWR/2-6 plants that utilize CRDs equipped with either 919D258G002 or 919D258G003 CTF assemblies."

The affected plants are: Nine Mile Point 1-2, **Fermi 2**, Columbia, Grand Gulf, River Bend, Fitzpatrick, Pilgrim, Vermont Yankee, Clinton, Dresden 2-3, LaSalle 1-2,

Limerick 1-2, Oyster Creek, Peach Bottom 2-3, Quad Cities 1-2, **Perry 1**, Duane Arnold, Cooper, Susquehanna 1-2, Brunswick 1-2, Hope Creek, Hatch 1 - 2, Browns Ferry 1-3, Monticello, and Millstone.

\* \* \* UPDATE FROM GE HITACHI VIA FAX AT 1259 EDT ON 6/6/12 \* \* \*

"GEH has completed the evaluation of this condition and has determined that the failure of Control Rod Drive collet retainer tube fillet weld is not a Reportable Condition as defined by 10CFR Part 21."

Notified R1DO (Cahill), R2DO (Widmann), R3DO (Passehl), R4DO (Gepford) and Part 21 Group (via email).

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 48000
Facility: DAVIS BESSE Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [ ] [ ] RX Type: [1] B&W-R-LP NRC Notified By: ERIC HORVATH HQ OPS Officer: DONG HWA PARK	Notification Date: 06/07/2012 Notification Time: 02:39 [ET] Event Date: 06/06/2012 Event Time: 19:56 [EDT] Last Update Date: 06/07/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(ii)(A) - DEGRADED CONDITION	Person (Organization): DAVE PASSEHL (R3DO)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
1	N	N	0	Hot Standby	0	Hot Standby

**Event Text**

**DEGRADED CONDITION DUE TO DISCOVERY OF PRESSURE BOUNDARY LEAKAGE**

"On June 6, 2012, at 1956 EDT, with the Unit shutdown for refueling, leakage was identified from a 3/4-inch weld during Reactor Coolant System (RCS) walkdown inspections. The leakage amount was approximately 0.1 gpm pinhole spray.

"During the performance of MODE 3 engineering walkdown inspections in accordance with procedure DB-PF-03010 (ASME Section III, Class 1 and 2), with the RCS at Normal Operating Temperature and Pressure, a pressure boundary leak was identified on the Reactor Coolant Pump (RCP) 1-2 1st seal cavity vent line upstream weld of 3/4 inch small bore pipe socketweld at a 90 degree elbow between the RCP pump and valve RC-407 (1st Seal Cavity Vent Isolation). The plant was in MODE 3 at Normal Operating Pressure and Normal Operating Temperature (NOP/NOT) for the

inspections.

"The plant entered Technical Specification (TS) Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.4.13, 'RCS Operational Leakage,' Condition B and procedure DB-OP-02522. 'Small RCS Leaks,' abnormal operating procedure. Plant cooldown to comply with LCO 3.4.13, Condition B, Required Action B.2 is in progress. The cause and resolution are under evaluation.

"This event is reportable within 8 hours under 10CFR50.72(b)(3)(ii)(A).

"The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified. This condition has been documented in the Davis-Besse Corrective Action program as Condition Report 2012-09381."

The plant is required to be in MODE 5 within 36 hours.

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 48013
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [ ] [ ] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: THOMAS MORSE HQ OPS Officer: MARK ABRAMOVITZ	Notification Date: 06/11/2012 Notification Time: 14:41 [ET] Event Date: 06/11/2012 Event Time: 08:52 [EDT] Last Update Date: 06/11/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(v)(D) - ACCIDENT MITIGATION	Person (Organization): BILLY DICKSON (R3DO)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
1	N	Y	73	Power Operation	73	Power Operation

#### Event Text

##### HIGH PRESSURE CORE SPRAY INOPERABLE

"On June 11, 2012, at 0845 hours, an unexpected Division 3 battery DC system trouble alarm was received in the control room along with indication of lowering battery voltage. As a result of this condition, the plant operators declared the Division 3 DC electrical power subsystem inoperable at 0852 hours and entered the applicable Technical Specifications which require the High Pressure Core Spray System (HPCS) be declared inoperable. HPCS is a single-train safety system and its inoperable status is considered a loss of safety function. The cause of the trouble alarm was failure of the normal battery charger. Following a walkdown inspection of the Division 3 DC electrical bus with no abnormalities noted, the reserve charger was placed in service at 0858 hours to supply the bus. At 1245 hours, the HPCS system was declared operable following restoration of the Division 3 DC electrical power subsystem to

operable status.

"This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(v)(D). The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified."

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Part 21	Event Number: 48042
Rep Org: ROSEMOUNT NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS, INC. Licensee: ROSEMOUNT NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTS, INC. Region: 3 City: CHANHASSEN State: MN County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: JEFF CHIVERS HQ OPS Officer: DONG HWA PARK	Notification Date: 06/21/2012 Notification Time: 15:03 [ET] Event Date: 06/14/2012 Event Time: [CDT] Last Update Date: 06/21/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 21.21(d)(3)(i) - DEFECTS AND NONCOMPLIANCE	Person (Organization): DANIEL HOLODY (R1DO) ALAN BLAMEY (R2DO) JULIO LARA (R3DO) GEOFFREY MILLER (R4DO) PART 21 GRP BY EMAIL ()

### Event Text

#### PART 21 - RELIABILITY DEGRADATION OF RESISTORS IN TRIP UNITS AND READOUT ASSEMBLIES

"Certain 710DU Trip Units may not perform their intended safety function as a result of certain wire wound precision resistors experiencing a degradation of reliability. Additionally, certain 710DU Readout Assemblies used to calibrate 710DU Trip Units may experience degraded digital display accuracy during calibration due to a similar cause. Rosemount Nuclear Instruments, Inc. does not have complete information relating to specific plant applications and therefore cannot determine the potential effects of the condition on plant operation.

"This notification affects certain Model 710DU Trip Units and certain 710DU Readout Assemblies shipped from Rosemount Nuclear Instruments, Inc between March 16, 2005 and May 10, 2012."

The shipments were distributed to Ginna, Nine Mile Point, **Fermi**, Columbia Generating Station, Fitzpatrick, River Bend Station, Grand Gulf, Quad Cities, Peach Bottom, LaSalle, Limerick, Dresden, **Perry**, Hope Creek, Hatch, Brunswick, Browns

Ferry, and Monticello.

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 48047
Facility: FERMI Region: 3 State: MI Unit: [2] [ ] [ ] RX Type: [2] GE-4 NRC Notified By: JEFF GROFF HQ OPS Officer: DONG HWA PARK	Notification Date: 06/25/2012 Notification Time: 16:38 [ET] Event Date: 06/25/2012 Event Time: 13:30 [EDT] Last Update Date: 06/25/2012
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(2)(iv)(B) - RPS ACTUATION - CRITICAL	Person (Organization): NICK VALOS (R3DO)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
2	M/R	Y	26	Power Operation	0	Hot Shutdown

#### Event Text

##### REACTOR FEED PUMP TRIP RESULTS IN MANUAL REACTOR SCRAM

"At 1330 EDT on June 25, 2012, while restoring the Main Turbine Generator (MTG) to service after repairs to Main Unit Transformer 2B (MUT2B), Main Control Room (MCR) staff manually initiated a reactor scram in response to trip of both Reactor Feed Pumps (RFP). All control rods fully inserted. The lowest Reactor Water Level (RWL) reached was 154 inches and, as expected, HPCI and RCIC did not actuate. RWL was restored to normal using the Standby Feedwater (SBFW) system. RWL is currently being maintained in the normal level band with SBFW and Control Rod Drive (CRD) systems. No Safety Relief Valves (SRV) actuated. All isolations and actuations for RWL 3 occurred as expected. Investigation into the trip of RFPs continues.

"At the time of the scram, all Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCS) and Emergency Diesel Generators (EDG) were operable and no safety related equipment was out of service. This report is being made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(iv)(B) as an event that results in actuation of the reactor protection system (RPS) when the reactor is critical."

The plant is in a normal shutdown electrical lineup with decay heat being removed via steam to the main condenser using the bypass valves.

The licensee notified the NRC Resident Inspector.

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## **Fukushima Daiichi Update**