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Date: 11:27 AM, Monday, Dec. 14, 2015

Subject: Allegation – Davis-Besse's emergency diesel generators

Good Day,

My colleague Kevin Kamps called my attention to a license amendment request submitted by the Davis-Besse owner seeking to change the voltage limit for the emergency diesel generators.

That request was dated April 1, 2015, and is in ADAMS under ML15091A143.

The license amendment request seeks to increase the EDG minimum voltage from 4031 volts to 4070 volt. In the request, the owner explained that the request came after it had "identified a potentially non-conservative technical specification."

In reviewing the matter, I came across a license amendment request dated May 23, 2012, seeking to increase the EDG minimum voltage from 4031 volts to 4070 volts. This license amendment request is in ADAMS under ML12144A383.

The 2012 license amendment request stated it was necessary because a "subsequent evaluation demonstrated that this minimum voltage limit was insufficient to ensure automatic closure of the EDG output circuit breaker."

Further research identified an NRC email dated June 21, 2012, to the owner indicating that the license amendment request could not be accepted for review until some additional information was provided. That email is in ADAMS under ML14324A823.

There's a letter dated July 16, 2012, from the owner to the NRC withdrawing the license amendment request. This letter is in ADAMS under ML12199A056. The letter indicated that the owner did not wish to provide the additional information requested by the NRC.

There's also a letter dated July 30, 2012, from the NRC to the owner acknowledging that the license amendment request had been withdraw. This letter is in ADAMS under ML12200A387.

My allegation is that the Davis-Besse license knew on or before May 23, 2012, that the minimum voltage limit for the emergency diesel generators was non-conservative and could prevent proper, safe operation of the emergency diesel generator. I've searched ADAMS and the NRC website looking for a Notice of Enforcement Discretion and/or a Licensee Event Report on EDG minimum voltage at Davis-Besse. I've not found any such documents. My allegation is that the owner is deliberately operating Davis-Besse outside the plant's design and licensing bases with a known safety impairment.

By its own admissions, the owner knows that the minimum voltage limit in the technical specifications for the emergency diesel generators is inadequate to ensure that the plant responds as assumed in the safety studies reviewed by the NRC in granting the operating license, and more recently, the renewed operating license. And yet there's no evidence that the owner sought a Notice of Enforcement Discretion to allow Davis-Besse to continue operating despite being outside its current licensing basis. And there's no evidence that the owner submitted a licensee event report to the NRC for deliberately operating Davis-Besse outside its design and licensing basis.

I do not request anonymity or confidentiality for this allegation. In fact, when NRC contacts the owner regarding this matter, please feel free to tell them it was me.

Thanks,

Dave Lochbaum

UCS