[Statement of Phyllis Oster

at December 18, 2010 People’s Hearing about Davis-Besse’s License Extension, Toledo, Ohio]

I had been involved in the initial opposition to granting a license for the building of Davis-Besse.

My husband was a geneticist in the Biological Sciences Dept. at Bowling Green State University. His research focused on the effects of radiation and chemical mutagens on the genetic material of Drosophila melanogaster, commonly known as fruit flies. A group from Bowling Green State University came to the hearings to testify in opposition. Opposition to the building of the plant was based on the fact that tons of radioactive waste would be generated in order to produce electricity. At that time planning for the long term containment of the radioactive wastes was to be done in the future. We still do not have any methods approved for the long term storage and isolation of the tons of spent radioactive rods and other radioactive material that is made during the mining, and processing of the fuel. This material will be dangerously radioactive to humans and other living things for hundreds of thousands of years. To put that in perspective we will be starting the year 2011 of the common era on January 1st.

Davis-Besse has proven to be one of the most unreliable plants in the US. FirstEnergy has been very negligent in maintaining the safety of the plant and renewing the license of this aging facility will place the population of Northwest Ohio in great danger.

As a very senior citizen I would like to encourage the members in the audience who are opposing the relicensing of the plant to keep fighting. It can sometimes get discouraging but the opposition that was mounted to the original building of nuclear plants in the 1960s and ‘70s did result in enough added expense for the electrical industry to put a halt to the building of new plants for many years. Originally nuclear power was touted as power that would be produced so cheaply that it would not have to be metered. Now we are being told that it will solve the problems of pollution generated by using fossil fuels.

We will be replacing carbon problems of pollution generated by using fossil fuels with problems of radioactive pollution for which there is no clean up but time.