

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
76 South Main Street
Akron, OH 44308
www.firstenergycorp.com

For Release: April 6, 2010

News Media Contact:
Todd Schneider
(330) 620-2895

Investor Contact:
Ron Seeholzer
(330) 384-5415

DAVIS-BESSE BEGINS NOZZLE MODIFICATIONS

Oak Harbor, Ohio – Modifications to control rod drive mechanism nozzles at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station in Oak Harbor, Ohio, began late last week.

A team of 80 contract engineers and technicians is using industry-proven methods, including robotic welding, to make modifications to 16 of the 69 nozzles on the reactor head. The process involves removing the lower half of each affected nozzle and re-welding the remaining section to provide structural integrity. The contractor team has made nearly 100 similar modifications at other U.S. nuclear power plants.

Following this work, additional evaluation and testing will be conducted on the remaining nozzles and may identify indications that require modification. This testing is expected to begin in May and take approximately two weeks. The initial nozzle inspection process began on March 12 and included ultrasonic testing, liquid dye penetrant examinations and two separate visual inspections.

The impact of the modification work on the duration of the outage schedule has not yet been determined.

“While we have inspected all the nozzles, we believe the additional testing will help ensure that all necessary modifications are made,” said Barry Allen, vice president of Davis-Besse. “We will restart the plant when we are confident that all the modifications have been successfully completed and the plant is ready for continued safe and reliable operations.”

The 908-megawatt plant shut down for scheduled refueling and maintenance work on February 28. Refueling and other scheduled maintenance activities continue at the plant.

Davis-Besse is part of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), a subsidiary of Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: FE).

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