

## Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station Examines Shield Building

Written by Australian Business

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AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 20, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Routine inspections of the concrete shield building at FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company's (FENOC) Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station conducted to date have confirmed that the building continues to maintain its structural integrity and ability to safely perform its functions.

The current inspection incorporates high-definition camera technology for examination inside of the building's walls through a series of inspection ports – or core bores. The improved camera provides greater clarity and mobility than previously available equipment.

Since the start of the inspection, 43 of the shield building's 82 core bores have been examined, with the remaining examinations expected to be complete in the next several weeks. The improved camera has identified three very tight, subsurface pre-existing cracks in the building that were not visible with previous inspection technology. These inspections also have found that in three locations, cracks initially identified in 2011 appear to have propagated a small amount.

"Analysis of all inspection results to date confirms the 2011 conclusion that the shield building's structural integrity is not impacted by the presence of these tight cracks. The robust building continues to function safely and reliably," said Davis-Besse Site Vice President Ray Lieb. "Long-term safe, reliable operation of the plant is our number one goal."

The 2½ -foot thick reinforced concrete shield building provides biological shielding and protection from natural phenomenon including wind and tornados. The building surrounds a 1½-inch carbon steel vessel containing the reactor.

The initial cracks in the shield building were discovered in October 2011 when the building was opened to install a new reactor head. Extensive analysis conducted at the time determined that the building's structural integrity was not affected. Subsequently, the shield building was painted with a protective coating, and a long-term inspection program was established to ensure continued safe function of the building.

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Davis-Besse is part of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. (NYSE: [FE](#)), which also operates the Beaver Valley Power Station in Shippingport, Pennsylvania and the Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Perry, Ohio

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Ferry and Mitchell Power Stations, the impact on vendor commitments, and the timing thereof as they relate to, among other things, Reliability Must-Run arrangements and the reliability of the transmission grid; adverse regulatory or legal decisions and outcomes with respect to our nuclear operations (including, but not limited to the revocation or non-renewal of necessary licenses, approvals or operating permits by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or as a result of

the incident at

Japan's

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant); issues arising from the indications of cracking in the shield building at Davis-Besse; adverse legal decisions and outcomes related to Metropolitan Edison Company's and Pennsylvania Electric Company's ability to recover certain transmission costs through their Transmission Service Charge riders; the impact of future changes to the operational status or availability of our generating units; the risks and uncertainties associated with litigation, arbitration, mediation and like proceedings, including, but not limited to, any such proceedings related to vendor commitments; replacement power costs being higher than anticipated or inadequately hedged; the ability to comply with applicable state and federal reliability standards and energy efficiency and peak demand reduction mandates; changes in customers' demand for power, including but not limited to, changes resulting from the implementation of state and federal energy efficiency and peak demand reduction mandates; the ability to accomplish or realize anticipated benefits from strategic and financial goals including, but not limited to, the ability to reduce costs and to successfully complete our announced financial plans designed to improve our credit metrics and strengthen our balance sheet, including but not limited to, proposed capital raising and debt reduction initiatives, the proposed

West Virginia

asset transfer and potential sale of non-core hydro assets; our ability to improve electric commodity margins and the impact of, among other factors, the increased cost of fuel and fuel transportation on such margins; the ability to experience growth in the Regulated Distribution segment and to continue to successfully implement our direct retail sales strategy in the Competitive Energy Services segment; changing market conditions that could affect the measurement of liabilities and the value of assets held in our nuclear decommissioning trusts, pension trusts and other trust funds, and cause us and our subsidiaries to make additional contributions sooner, or in amounts that are larger than currently anticipated; the impact of changes to material accounting policies; the ability to access the public securities and other capital and credit markets in accordance with our announced financial plan, the cost of such capital and overall condition of the capital and credit markets affecting us and our subsidiaries; actions that may be taken by credit rating agencies that could negatively affect us and our subsidiaries' access to financing, increase the costs thereof, and increase requirements to post additional collateral to support outstanding commodity positions, letters of credit and other financial guarantees; changes in national and regional economic conditions affecting us, our subsidiaries and our major industrial and commercial customers, and other counterparties including fuel suppliers, with which we do business; issues concerning the stability of domestic and foreign financial institutions and counterparties with which we do business; the risks and other factors discussed from time to time in our Securities and Exchange Commission filings, and other similar factors. The foregoing review of factors should not be construed as exhaustive. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all such factors, nor assess the impact of any such factor on FirstEnergy's business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. FirstEnergy expressly disclaims any current intention to update, except as required by law, any forward-looking statements contained herein as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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