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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 29, 2007

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Mr. Dale E. Klein  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Klein:

Yesterday, FirstEnergy's Perry nuclear power station experienced an unscheduled automatic shutdown and the failure of multiple equipment systems. Today, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced that it would conduct a special inspection at the Perry plant to determine the causes of the shutdown, as well as the equipment failures.

As you know, NRC has over the years uncovered a number of serious management problems at the Perry facility. Namely,

On September 26, 2002, the NRC Office of Investigations concluded that FENOC's application for access was falsified at Perry;

On October 6, 2003, the NRC Office of Investigations concluded that overtime records were deliberately falsified at Perry so as to appear to comply with technical specifications; and

On April 1, 2004, the NRC informed FirstEnergy that it found "creative timekeeping" at the Perry plant.

As you also know, FENOC has exhibited an inclination toward evading oversight. Thus, in March, 2007, I wrote to NRC out of concern that FENOC had requested to be relieved from independent oversight mandated by NRC after a near catastrophe at the Davis-Besse Nuclear facility in 2002. As you know, the mandated independent assessments followed NRC's investigation into FirstEnergy's efforts to deceive the government about safety violations at the Davis-Besse facility that resulted in a football-sized crater in the reactor vessel.

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Only a slim steel liner stood in the way of radioactive release into the air, which would have jeopardized the safety of millions of residents of the state of Ohio.

The Oversight and Government Reform Committee is the principal oversight committee of Congress, and the Domestic Policy Subcommittee has broad jurisdiction over many federal agencies, including NRC. I hereby request a briefing from NRC on its special inspection findings as soon as is reasonably practicable.

You may contact Jaron R. Bourke, Staff Director, at (202) 225-6427 to arrange a suitable time.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Kucinich  
Chairman,  
Domestic Policy Subcommittee

cc: Darrell Issa  
Ranking Minority Member