



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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May 2, 2000

EA 99-157

Gregory M. Rueger, Senior Vice President
and General Manager
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Nuclear Power Generation, B32
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San Francisco, California 94177

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS SAFETY-CONSCIOUS WORK
ENVIRONMENT AT DIABLO CANYON**

Dear Mr. Rueger:

Your letter of February 25, 2000 responded to my January 14, 2000 letter concerning the safety-conscious work environment at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. You described actions that Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) had taken to address the potential negative effect on the safety-conscious work environment at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant as a result of events in the discrimination case involving a former shift foreman, Neil J. Aiken.

In brief, your letter noted that PG&E had held meetings with operations department shift managers and supervisory personnel, had evaluated trends in the use of the corrective action program, and had completed a follow-up safety culture survey in the organizations that had received the lowest scores in the 1998 survey conducted by SYNERGY. Based on the detailed information provided in your letter, you concluded that recent events in the case involving Mr. Aiken had not adversely affected the Diablo Canyon safety culture, and that noticeable improvements were being made.

Since your letter was written, additional events in the case emphasize the need for PG&E to continue to address the potential for a negative effect on the safety-conscious work environment at Diablo Canyon. These events include: 1) the Department of Labor's investigation report, which found that Mr. Aiken had been retaliated against by PG&E management for having raised safety concerns, becoming public; and 2) PG&E and Mr. Aiken reaching a settlement in the case that had been pending before the Department of Labor, which means that an adjudicatory decision will not be reached.

As I discussed with you by telephone, I believe, in view of the present circumstances, that it is in the public interest for PG&E and the NRC to discuss in a public forum the results of your follow-up safety culture survey and other actions you are taking to ensure a safety-conscious work

environment at Diablo Canyon. Our staffs are currently finalizing the arrangements for a public meeting on Friday, May 19. I will be in touch with you regarding the details as we get closer to the actual date. Please call me if you have any questions.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-275; 50-323
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-3-

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-4-

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