

June 5, 2000

To:

David Oatley, Vice President  
Operations and Plant Manager  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant  
P.O. Box 56  
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Ellis Merschoff  
Regional Administrator  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Office of Emergency Services  
County Government Center Rm. 370  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

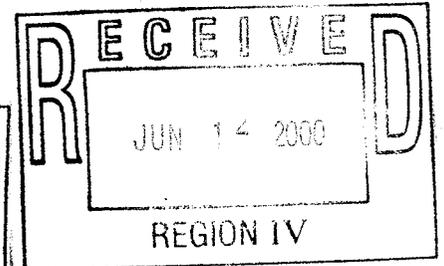
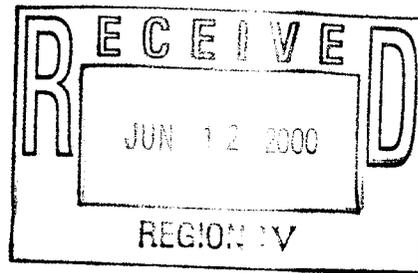
San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department  
1525 Kansas Ave.,  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Robert Wellington  
Independent Safety Committee  
857 Cass Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

Peg Pinard  
Board of Supervisors  
County Government Center  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Lois Capps  
1118 Longworth Bldg.  
Washington, D.C., 20515-0522



From: Jill ZamEk  
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace  
P.O. Box 164  
Pismo Beach, CA 93448  
(805) 489-8903

Re: May 15<sup>th</sup> fire and atmospheric release

I am writing regarding the fire and 'steam' release at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in California on May 15, 2000. I am a concerned citizen and a member of a local peace and environmental group - the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace. I have some concerns, questions and issues regarding this incident.

1. The report from several sources assured us that the amount of radiation that was released into the atmosphere was minuscule - so little, in fact, that it was not detectable. **My question is: How sensitive and effective are these radiation monitors?** It seems to me that ANY amount of radiation released should be measurable and reportable.

2. By the time I learned of the automatic shutdown and the release, it was well into the evening. I wanted more detailed information, so I made some phone calls. The PG&E number remained busy the entire evening. The PG&E recorded message explained the situation and noted that some radiation was likely to be released into the atmosphere with the steam. The NRC on-site inspector phone number did not answer, and there was no recording. The Office of Emergency Planning had a general use recorded message, but it said nothing about the nuclear plant situation. I reached the Sheriff, and he assured me that the fire was in a 'warehouse' and that only steam was being released. (Well, clearly I knew more than he did.) The next morning I was able to reach an NRC on-site inspector. He assured me that the amount of radiation released was not detectable. I am not feeling reassured. **My question is: What is a member of the public supposed to do to get accurate and timely information regarding the status at the plant?**

3. A major issue involves credibility. **Who can we trust? Will we be given accurate and truthful information in a time frame that will make a difference?** PG&E cannot be trusted. The company has withheld evidence in the past and has shown itself to be interested in profit over safety and ethics. (It hid its knowledge of the Hosgri Earthquake Fault during construction of the plant. It withheld evidence - entrainment and impingement numbers - in a case involving the Regional Water Quality Control Board. I understand that it did it again a few weeks ago with water temperatures in the current case with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Neil Aiken, a senior control room operator, was fired for being too aggressive in pursuing his safety concerns.)

4. Since all monitoring is done by PG&E and because PG&E is not a reliable source of information, the public health and safety is in jeopardy. **My question is: How can the public receive independent, unbiased monitoring and reporting of radiation releases?**

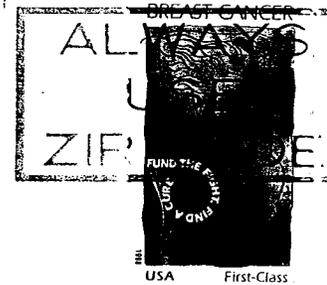
I expect responses from all recipients of this letter.

Sincerely,



Jill ZamEk

Alex Ek  
Jill ZamEk  
1123 Flora Rd.  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



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