

November 15, 2000

Mr. Gregory M. Rueger
Senior Vice President, Generation and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant
P. O. Box 3
Avila Beach, CA 94177

SUBJECT: DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NO. 1 - SUPPLEMENT
TO AMENDMENT NO. 143 RE: UNIT 1 REACTOR CORE THERMAL POWER
UPRATE (TAC NOS. MA7813 AND MB0475)

Dear Mr. Rueger:

On October 26, 2000, the Commission issued Amendment No. 143 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-80 for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 to authorize reactor core thermal power uprate from 3338 megawatts to 3411 megawatts.

It was our understanding that your analysis was based on the 17X17 VANTAGE 5 fuel assemblies and ZIRLO cladding. Therefore, the amendment stated that use of any other fuel design or cladding material is subject to our review and approval.

Subsequently, by letter dated November 9, 2000, you provided clarification that, in addition to fuel assemblies with ZIRLO clad, the reload core for Unit 1, Cycle 11 contains 17 fuel assemblies that are clad with Zircaloy-4. Your letter also stated a cycle-specific reload safety evaluation for Unit 1, Cycle 11 has been performed using the NRC-approved PAD 4.0 code (Reference: WCAP-15063-P-A, Revision 1, "Westinghouse Improved Performance Analysis and Design Model (PAD 4.0)," July 2000) to verify that the oxidation requirements of 10 CFR 50.46 are met.

Based on your clarification, the staff finds that the use of Zircaloy-4 clad fuel is acceptable for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 operation at the previously approved updated core thermal power level of 3411 megawatts.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-275

cc: See next page

Based on your clarification, the staff finds that the use of Zircaloy-4 clad fuel is acceptable for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 operation at the previously approved updated core thermal power level of 3411 megawatts.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-275

cc: See next page

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Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Unit 1

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