



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

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PG&E Letter DCL-01-029

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-80
Docket No. 50-323, OL-DPR-82
Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2
Special Report 01-02, Primary Meteorological Instrumentation Inoperable Greater Than Seven Days Due to Troubleshooting

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

PG&E is voluntarily providing this special report to document the circumstances involved with a past maintenance-related inoperability of the primary meteorological instrumentation identified during an NRC inspection conducted on January 12, 2001. Diablo Canyon Equipment Control Guideline (ECG) 40.1, "Meteorological Instrumentation," may not have been fully satisfied when one of two wind direction sensors was declared inoperable for greater than seven days. ECG 40.1 requires submittal of a special report outlining the cause of the malfunction and the plans for restoring the channel to operable status if one or more required meteorological monitoring channels are inoperable for more than seven days.

On August 1, 2000, an anomaly was identified in the 76-meter elevation wind direction sensor circuit of the primary meteorological tower that required troubleshooting and repair of a cable connector. The 76-meter elevation wind sensor was temporarily repaired on August 29, 2000, and a permanent repair was made on November 7, 2000, as described in the enclosed chronology of events.

During the time the 76-meter wind sensor was inoperable the permanently installed backup meteorological tower, described in the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) Update, Section 2.3.3, "Onsite Meteorological Measurement Program," was available as a source of data in the unlikely event of an additional primary meteorological tower wind direction sensor failure.

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In addition, a portable (assembly required) meteorological station was available throughout the time period as described in FSAR Update, Section 2.3.3. The backup tower and portable station could be used to obtain meteorological data required in the unlikely event of a radiological release and additional failures of the primary and backup meteorological monitoring instrumentation.

Therefore, this event did not adversely affect the health and safety of the public.

PG&E will revise ECG 40.1 to identify the backup meteorological monitoring tower as a required monitoring station, establish formal surveillance testing procedures, and maintain the operability of the sensors consistent with the requirements applied to the primary meteorological monitoring instrumentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D H Oatley'.

David H. Oatley
Vice President, Diablo Canyon Operations

cc: Ellis W. Merschoff
David L. Proux
Girija S. Shukla
Diablo Distribution

Enclosure

DDM/2245

**Chronology of Primary Meteorological Tower 76-Meter Wind Direction Sensor
Between August 1, 2000, and November 7, 2000**

On August 1, 2000, the primary meteorological tower 76-meter wind direction sensor was observed to be reading 180 degrees different than the 10-meter wind direction sensor. Plant operators declared the 76-meter wind direction sensor inoperable and an Equipment Control Guideline (ECG) 40.1 action statement tracking sheet was issued but the action statement was not entered. The ECG action was not entered due to operator understanding of the previous technical specification (TS) 3.3.3.4 condition that only "1 of 2" primary meteorological tower wind direction sensors was required to satisfy the specification.

On August 2, 2000, plant operators observed that the 76-meter wind direction sensor was operating as expected and updated the maintenance action request to perform further troubleshooting and/or observations to confirm if a problem existed.

On August 16, 2000, further observations determined that current wind speed and direction changes were too mild to clearly determine if the upper and lower wind speed sensors were tracking together with wind changes as expected.

On August 29, 2000, during performance of surveillance test procedure STP I-40-M559.B, "Primary Meteorology Wind Direction, Wind Speed, and Air Temperature ΔT Calibration," to replace the wind direction sensor maintenance personnel identified sensor cable degradation near the sensor. Maintenance personnel performed an approved temporary repair of the cable to allow scheduled replacement of the cabling during a routine scheduled maintenance period in November 2000, and the information only TS/ECG tracking sheet was closed out.

On August 30, 2000, the 76-meter wind direction sensor was returned to service and the ECG action status terminated.

On November 7, 2000, the cable connector for the 76-meter wind direction sensor was replaced during routine scheduled tower maintenance completing the long-term repair of the identified problem.