February 26, 2002

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 NOS. 1 AND 2 - RESPONSE TO BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NOS. MB2627 AND MB2628)

Dear Mr. Rueger:

On August 3, 2001, the staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor (PWR) plants. You were requested to respond to Items 1 and 4 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your Bulletin response by letter dated August 30, 2001, as supplemented by letter dated November 26, 2001. These responses state that Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 are classified as having moderate susceptibility to primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) in the VHP nozzles, based upon a relative susceptibility ranking of more than five but less than thirty effective full power years from the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, condition. The staff finds that you have provided the requested information in these responses. Your Bulletin responses state that you plan to perform bare metal effective visual inspections of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles at your next refueling outage for each unit. The NRC staff has concluded that the inspection schedule and scope described in your Bulletin responses provide reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained at your plants. Since the proposed inspection scope and schedule described in your responses were integral to the staff's findings, it is the staff's expectation that you will submit a revised response to the Bulletin if you make any substantive changes to the schedule and/or scope of future inspections for your plants. If warranted by such changes, the staff will reevaluate this issue for Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2.

You are reminded that Item 5 of the Bulletin requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage:

a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-8439.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 50-275
and 50-323

cc: See next page

a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

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Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager, Section 2
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