

RAS 41568



Lorraine Kitman

05/08/02 04:45 PM

To:

cc:

Subject: Petition for leave to intervene and request for hearing

DOCKETED
USNRC

May 10, 2002 (4:33PM)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Public Document Room
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2739

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Docket No. 72-26-ISFSI

Attn: Commissioners

As a resident living near the Pacific, Gas & Electric Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in San Luis Obispo county, California, for most of the last 27 years, I hereby ask you to consider my request for a petition for leave to intervene and for a hearing on PG&E's application for a proposed independent spent fuel storage installation at Diablo Canyon.

My parents moved our family to Arroyo Grande in 1975 when I was 8 years old. I am now almost 35 years old and am raising my 9 year old son from the Arroyo Grande home I grew up in. My son attends elementary school three blocks from our home. I work in Oceano and am able to ride my bicycle the two or so miles to my office most of the year. My home, my son's school, and my office are all just a few miles at most from the beautiful Pacific Ocean beaches of our Central California Coast. Our coastal wind currents typically blow toward the south from the north and are most obvious to me as I struggle against them riding my bicycle northward up 22nd Street through Oceano on my way home from work. The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is fifteen or so miles north - upwind - of the area we live.

Living downwind from a nuclear power plant, especially one built in such an earthquake-prone area, has occupied my adult worries often. Of course with current events, I worry about a terrorist attack on Diablo. However, with all due respect, I am much more worried by the Lopez Dam evacuation map I received by mail, issued in case the dam should fail in a major earthquake. Lopez Lake is about 15 miles east of our area. The Lopez evacuation map, which does not take into account earthquake damage to Diablo, made me realize that publicly distributed information addressing realistic evacuation routes and procedures in the event of a major earthquake in our area - sandwiched as it is between Diablo to the North, Lopez to the East, and the Pacific to the West - is not forthcoming.

A major earthquake in our area is a very real probability being situated on the San Andreas faultline. In a major earthquake, Diablo would very likely experience a mishap causing radiation to escape either from the facility itself or from the proposed dry storage casks, the Lopez Dam would very likely fail and the resulting flood cut off any ability to evacuate toward either the east or the south. With the Pacific to the West, the only possible direction we could go would be north, against the prevailing winds carrying radiation toward us. It is for this reason that I request a petition for leave to intervene and for a hearing on PG&E's pending storage application.

I want to give voice to the obvious: we can not allow our only avenue of escape from a major earthquake-caused flood to be one in which we have to be exposed to leaking radiation from a major earthquake-caused Diablo containment failure. There is enough "lay" geological information to know that it is not a matter of "if" but a matter of "when" a major earthquake will occur along our area's San Andreas faultline. There are readily available and economically viable energy alternatives - solar and wind - that do not make us Central Coast residents "sitting ducks" hoping that the "big one" doesn't hit in our or our children's lifetimes.

Please grant my request.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Kitman

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