

March 15, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-275
and 50-323

Mr. J. D. Shiffer, Vice President
Nuclear Power Generation
c/o Nuclear Power Generation, Licensing
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Room 1451
San Francisco, California 94106

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Dear Mr. Shiffer:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(TACS 68032 AND 68033)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact". This assessment relates to your application dated April 18, 1988, for amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82 for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments would revise Technical Specification (TS) 2.2.1 and the associated bases to reduce the steam generator water level low and low-low setpoints from 15 percent to 7.2 percent of the narrow range span.

The assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects -- III,
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 15, 1989

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and 50-323

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The assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Rood".

Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
DOCKETS NOS. 50-275 AND 50-323
DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82, issued to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the licensee), for operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, located in San Luis Obispo County, California.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments would revise the Technical Specifications (TS) by revising the steam generator low and low-low level setpoints for initiating a reactor trip. Specifically, the proposed amendments would change the DCNPP combined Technical Specifications by revising TS 2.2.1, "Reactor Trip System Instrumentation Setpoints," Table 2.2-1, "Reactor Trip System Instrumentation Trip Setpoints," Items 13 and 14. These Items would be modified to reduce the steam generator water level low and low-low setpoints from 15 percent to 7.2 percent, as indicated by the narrow range instrument. Also, the associated TS bases would be changed accordingly.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendments dated April 18, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed revision to the TS is required to decrease the number of unnecessary reactor trips caused by (1) steam generator water level low-low and (2) steam generator water level low, coincident with steam/feedwater flow mismatch. This will reduce the number of challenges to the reactor protection systems and impose fewer thermal transients on the plants.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the TS. The evaluation shows that the proposed revision (1) does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, (2) does not result in a change in the types or amount of any effluents that may be released offsite, and (3) does not result in a significant increase in the individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed revision to the TS involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 23, 1988 (53 FR 23708). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendments. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in unnecessary reactor trips, thereby increasing the number of challenges to the reactor protection systems and imposing more thermal transients on the plants.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant dated May 1973, and its Addendum, dated May 1976.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendments. Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated April 18, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington,

DC 20555, and at the California Polytechnic State University Library,
Government Documents and Maps Department, San Luis Obispo, California 93407.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of March 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


George W. Knighton, Director
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V & Special Projects