

June 3, 2004

Mr. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Northwest Regional Office
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES FOR
THE PROPOSED HUMBOLDT BAY INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE
INSTALLATION

Dear Mr. Lohn:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff currently is reviewing a license application submitted by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on December 15, 2003, to construct and operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) on the site of the Humboldt Bay Power Plant (HBPP) in Humboldt County, California. As part of its review, the NRC staff is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, as specified in 10 CFR Part 51 of the NRC's regulations. As part of its environmental review, the NRC staff also is considering the potential impact of the proposed action on endangered species, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

As described in PG&E's application, the proposed ISFSI facility will be located within the 143-acre site boundary of the existing HBPP facility, on a small peninsula known as Buhne Point. The coordinates of the planned ISFSI site are latitude 40°44' N and longitude 124°12' W (approximately). Figure 2.3-1 from PG&E's environmental report is enclosed as an aid.

To support the EA preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, the NRC requests a list of endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species, and designated and proposed critical habitat under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries, that may be in the vicinity of the HBPP site. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended. After assessing the information provided by you, we will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with the Section 7 consultation process.

Mr. R.Lohn

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If you have any questions, please contact James Park of my staff. Mr. Park can be reached at (301) 415-5835.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott C. Flanders, Deputy Director
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management and
Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Attached List

Docket No: 72-27

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