

May 27, 2005

Chairman  
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria  
32 Brea River Drive  
Loleta, California 95551

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CULTURAL RESOURCES IN  
THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED HUMBOLDT BAY INDEPENDENT SPENT  
FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

Dear Chairman:

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. An applicant for a license of this type must submit an environmental report as part of its application, as required under 10 CFR Part 51 of the NRC's regulations. The NRC staff reviews this information in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, as specified in 10 CFR 51.10.

As described in PG&E's application, the proposed ISFSI facility would 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 40E44' N and longitude 124E12' W (approximately). Figure 2.3-1 from PG&E's environmental report is enclosed as an aid.

As required by 36 CFR 800.4(a), the NRC staff is requesting the assistance of the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria in identifying cultural and historic properties that may be affected by PG&E's proposed action of constructing and operating the ISFSI at the HBPP. The results of cultural resources surveys as documented in PG&E's application did not identify any cultural or historic properties that might be affected by the proposed action; however, these surveys rely, in part, on consultations with the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria that date back to 1999. As this information is more than five years old, the NRC staff is seeking the assistance of the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria in updating the results in these surveys. Any information you provide will be used to document potential effects on cultural and historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d).

Therefore, the NRC staff would appreciate any background information regarding prehistoric, historic, or ethnographic sites that you can provide about the proposed project area (*i.e.*, the HBPP site) and its vicinity. In addition, the NRC staff is interested in any concerns regarding cultural resources already known or likely to be present within the proposed project area. The NRC staff would appreciate a response to this request within 30 days of the date of this letter.

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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 or via email at [jrp@nrc.gov](mailto:jrp@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc (w/o enclosure): Attached List

Docket No: 72-27

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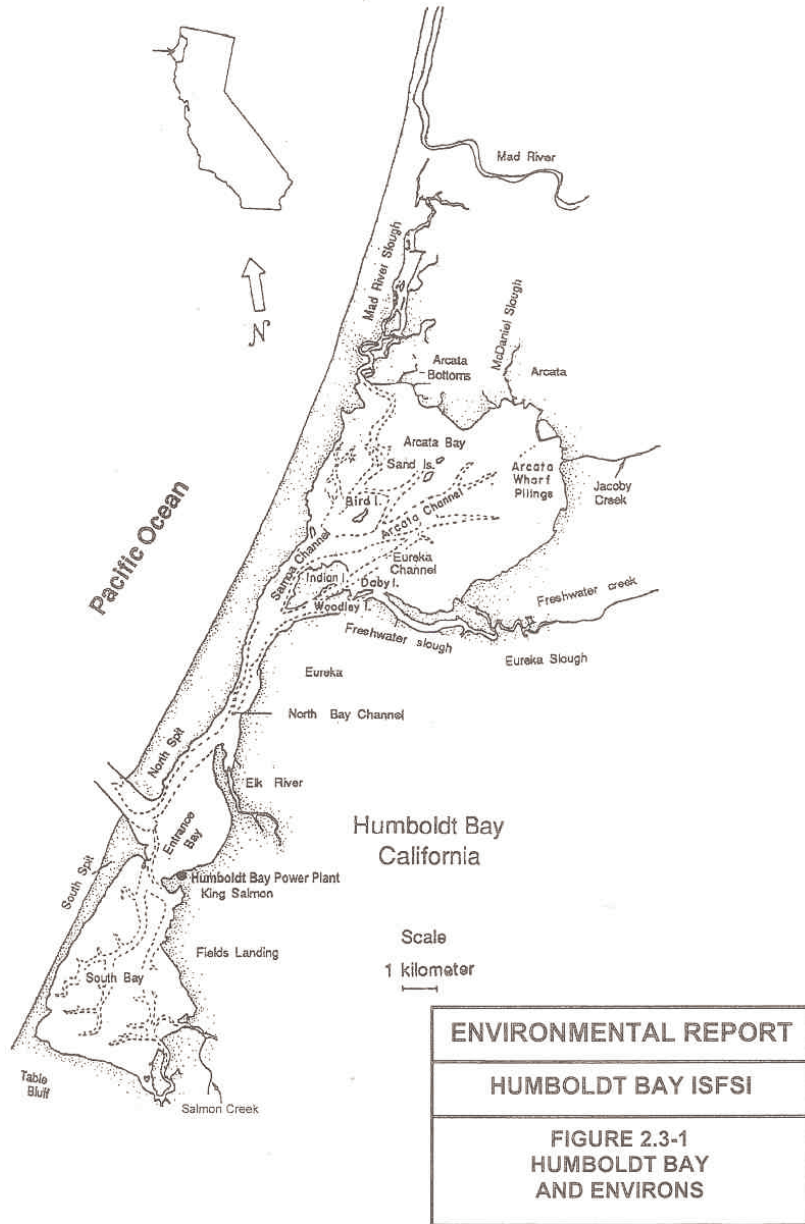
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Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit 3  
Docket Nos. 50-133, 72-27*

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