Ms. Cheryl Seidner, Chairwoman Wiyot Tribe 1000 Wiyot 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 Ms. Seidner:

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 Wiyot Tribe 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 Wiyot Tribe that date back to 1999. As this information is more than five years old, the NRC staff is seeking the assistance of the Wiyot Tribe 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.

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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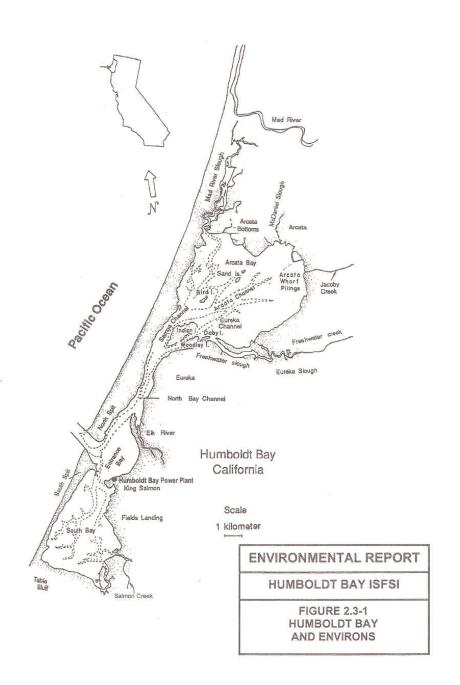
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Pacific Gas and Electric Company Humboldt Bat Power Plant, Unit 3 Docket Nos. 50-133, 72-27

CC:

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Mr. Steve Hsu Radiologic Health Branch State Department of Health Services P.O. Box 997414 (MS 7610) Sacramento, CA 95899-7414

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Redwood Alliance P.O. Box 293 Arcata, CA 95521 Dr. Rich Ferguson, Energy Chair Sierra Club California 1100 11th Street, Suite 311 Sacramento, CA 94814

Mr. Truman Burns Mr. Robert Kinosian California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness, Room 4102 San Francisco, CA 94102

Mr. Ed Bailey, Radiation Program Director Radiologic Health Branch State Department of Health Services P.O. Box 942732 (MS 178) Sacramento, CA 94327-7320

Mr. James D. Boyd, Commissioner California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX Office ATTN: Regional Radiation Representative 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

Chief, Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch, Region IV U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400 Arlington, TX 76011-8064

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