

January 27, 2006

Mr. Jack S. Keenan
Senior Vice President and CNO
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Diablo Canyon Power Plant
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177-0001

SUBJECT: DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 - REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR
RECOVERY OF LOW-POWER TESTING TIME - IMPACT ON THE REACTOR
VESSEL INTEGRITY ASSESSMENTS (TAC NOS. MC8206 AND MC8207)

Dear Mr. Keenan:

By letter dated August 23, 2005, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (refer to PGE Letter No. DCL-05-098) that, if approved, would permit PGE to extend the license of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 (DCPP-1/2). The licensee proposes to extend the license for the time period needed to perform low-power testing of the reactors prior to initial power operations. The licensee's request is in conformance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy established in SECY-98-296, "Agency Policy Regarding Licensee Recapture of Low-Power Testing or Shutdown Time for Nuclear Power Plants (December 21, 1998)."

A pressurized thermal shock (PTS) assessment is required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.61 and an upper shelf energy (USE) assessment is required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. The NRC staff has reviewed the impact of the license amendment request on the assessment for protecting the DCPP-1/2 reactor vessel (RV) against the consequences of PTS and on the assessment for maintaining adequate levels of USE in the RV beltline materials. The NRC staff has determined that it requires additional information to process the license amendment request. A request for additional information is enclosed. This request was discussed with Tom Grozan of your staff on January 17, 2006, and it was agreed that a response would be provided within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning the resolution of this matter, please contact Alan B. Wang at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alan B. Wang, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-275 and 50-323

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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Pacific Gas and Electric Company
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR
RECOVERY OF LOW-POWER TESTING TIME - IMPACT ON THE REACTOR
VESSEL INTEGRITY ASSESSMENTS (TAC NOS. MC8206 AND MC8207)

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By letter dated August 23, 2005, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the licensee) submitted a license amendment request (refer to PGE Letter No. DCL-05-098) that, if approved, would permit PGE to extend the license of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 (DCPP-1/2). The licensee proposes to extend the license for the time period needed to perform low-power testing of the reactors prior to initial power operations. The licensee's request is in conformance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy established in SECY-98-296, "Agency Policy Regarding Licensee Recapture of Low-Power Testing or Shutdown Time for Nuclear Power Plants (December 21, 1998)."

A pressurized thermal shock (PTS) assessment is required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.61 and a upper shelf energy (USE) assessment is required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. The NRC staff has reviewed the impact of the license amendment request on the assessment for protecting the DCPP-1/2 reactor vessel (RV) against the consequences of PTS and on the assessment for maintaining adequate levels of USE in the RV bellline materials. The NRC staff has determined that it requires additional information to process the license amendment request. A request for additional information is enclosed. This request was discussed with Tom Grozan of your staff on January 17, 2006, and it was agreed that a response would be provided within 60 days of receipt of this letter.

If you or your staff have any questions concerning the resolution of this matter, please contact Alan B. Wang at (301) 415-1445.

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST TO RECOVER LOW-POWER TESTING TIME
DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-275 AND 50-323
OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-80 AND DPR-82

By letter dated August 23, 2005, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PGE) submitted a license amendment request (refer to PGE Letter No. DCL-05-098) that, if approved, would permit PGE to extend the license of the nuclear reactors for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 (DCPP-1 for Unit 1 and DCPP-2 for Unit 2). The amount of time for extension of the operating licenses is based on the amount of time that PGE had expended performing low-power testing of the reactors prior to initial power operations. PGE's request is proposed in conformance with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy established in SECY-98-296, "Agency Policy Regarding Licensee Recapture of Low-Power Testing or Shutdown Time for Nuclear Power Plants [December 21, 1998]." With respect to assessing the impact of the proposed license amendment on the structural integrity assessment for protecting the reactor vessels (RVs) against pressurized thermal shock (PTS) (i.e., PTS assessment, which is mandated pursuant to Section 50.61 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and the structural integrity assessment for ensuring the RV beltline materials will maintain adequate levels of upper shelf energy (USE) (i.e., USE assessment, which is mandated pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G), the NRC staff has the following question:

1. The license amendment request proposes to add approximately 37 months of full power operation for the DCPP-1 reactor and approximately 4 months of full power operation for the DCPP-2 reactor. The additional time at full power operations will expose the RV beltline materials for the DCPP-1/2 RVs to additional neutron radiation (i.e., increasing the neutron fluence - in units of n/cm^2 , $E > 1.0$ MeV). Therefore, to support anticipated approval of the license amendment, the NRC staff requests that PGE provide the "Low-power Test Recovery-Impacted" PTS and USE calculations for the DCPP-1/2 RV beltline materials, as assessed through to the revised "Low-Power Test Recovery" expiration dates for the units.

ENCLOSURE

Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

cc:

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