November 5, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Alan Wang, Project Manager /RA/
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 – REVIEW OF POTENTIAL NEW FAULT AT THE DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT SITE (TAC NOS. ME0174 AND ME0175)

During a November 21, 2008, conference call, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E, the licensee) provided to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff preliminary results from ongoing seismic studies that indicate that there may be a plane of earthquake epicenters approximately 15 kilometers (km) in length, located approximately 1 km offshore from Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) site. PG&E is collaborating with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to collect and analyze new geological, geophysical, and seismic data to develop improved tectonic models for the central California coastal region through a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement. The research is in its second year of a 5-year program. In December 2008, PG&E provided to the staff an action plan detailing field investigations and analyses to better characterize the potential shoreline fault near the DCPP site. The interim studies are not due until mid-2010 with the final report due December 2010. The NRC staff has reviewed the Action Plan and concluded that the Action Plan and schedule are reasonably complete and comprehensive in scope for this study. In addition, in the interim, the NRC performed an independent deterministic seismic hazard analysis of the potential fault based on the preliminary information currently available to confirm the licensee's conclusions regarding the operability of DCPP. With the completion of this analysis and the related communications plan (ADAMS Accession No. ML090970544), TAC Nos. ME0174 and ME0175 are complete and new TAC numbers will be opened when the final study is submitted to the NRC staff.

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