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PG&E Letter DCL-11-047

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-80

Docket No. 50-323, OL-DPR-82

Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2

Request for Deferral of Issuance of Diablo Canyon Power Plant Renewed Operating Licenses

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

By Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Letter DCL-09-079, "License Renewal Application," dated November 23, 2009, PG&E submitted an application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the renewal of Facility Operating Licenses DPR-80 and DPR-82, for Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) Units 1 and 2, respectively. The application included the license renewal application (LRA), and Applicant's Environmental Report – Operating License Renewal Stage.

As you know, the Commission's review of the LRA includes consideration of whether license renewal is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The agencies responsible for performing the coastal consistency review for DCPP are San Luis Obispo County and the California Coastal Commission. In light of recent events at the Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant, and the considerable public concern regarding the need to assure the seismic safety at DCPP, PG&E has decided it is most prudent to have completed certain seismic studies at DCPP prior to issuance of the coastal consistency certification and the renewed NRC operating licenses, if approved.

The seismic studies referenced above are the seismic studies approved and funded by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), including 3-D seismic studies recommended by the California Energy Commission (collectively referred to in this letter as the "3-D seismic studies"). The CZMA and the California Coastal Act, and their implementing regulations, do not necessarily require the 3-D seismic studies to be completed prior to issuance of the coastal consistency certification or that a coastal development permit be obtained in connection with license renewal. Nonetheless, as noted above, PG&E believes it prudent to complete these studies and issue a report addressing the results prior to issuance of a consistency certification and/or renewed operating licenses, if approved.

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The CPUC approved PG&E's application for funding to perform the 3-D seismic studies on August 16, 2010. PG&E estimates that implementation of the 3-D seismic studies and investigations will occur over a minimum three-year period, which started in 2010. However, because this task will require the acquisition of all necessary State of California permits for seismic sources that exceed the 2-kilojoule energy limit, compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, conducting data collection over the defined off-shore survey area, and data interpretation and integration, it is possible for the completion date for the studies to be delayed. In any event, presuming PG&E obtains all necessary permits, PG&E expects the 3-D seismic studies to be completed, and intends to issue a report addressing the results of those studies, as soon as possible after completing the analysis of the data and no later than December 2015.

PG&E therefore requests that the Commission delay the final processing of the LRA such that the renewed operating licenses, if approved, would not be issued until after PG&E has completed the 3-D seismic studies and submitted a report to the NRC addressing the results of those studies. PG&E would appreciate a Commission response to this letter granting this request on the docket for the License Renewal Application, Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-80, Docket No. 50-323, OL-DPR-82.

Please contact Mr. Terence L. Grebel, License Renewal Project Manager, at (805) 545-4160 with any questions about this letter.

Executed on April 10, 2011.

Sincerely,



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