

September 19, 2013

Robert Weisenmiller, Chairman  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT  
IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO LICENSE NO. SNM-2514  
FOR THE HUMBOLDT BAY INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE  
INSTALLATION IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

Dear Mr. Weisenmiller:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has prepared the “Environmental Assessment for the Proposed License Amendment of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission License No. SNM-2514 for Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s Humboldt Bay Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation in Humboldt County, CA.” The amendment to License No. SNM-2514, if approved, would allow Pacific Gas and Electric Company to store greater than Class C (GTCC)<sup>1</sup> process waste, comprised of miscellaneous solid waste resulting from Humboldt Bay Power Plant Unit 3 operations and from decommissioning, at the Humboldt Bay Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI).

The NRC staff prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the NRC regulations listed in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, “Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions,” which implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The EA includes an analysis of relevant environmental issues and documents the NRC staff’s determination regarding the environmental impacts associated with the proposed license amendment. Based on its review of the proposed action, in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC staff has determined that approval of the proposed amendment to NRC License No. SNM-2514 to allow storage of GTCC process waste at the Humboldt Bay ISFSI will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. For these reasons, NRC has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 51.31, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the proposed action, and pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

On June 14, 2013, we sent the draft EA to Ms. Joan Walter of your staff, for the California Energy Commission review and comment. By electronic mail dated July 12, 2013, Ms. Walter noted that she had no comments on the draft EA.

Enclosed is a copy of the EA and the FONSI that was forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication, for your files.

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<sup>1</sup> GTCC waste is low-level radioactive waste generated by the commercial sector that exceeds NRC concentration limits for Class C low-level waste, as specified in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 61.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristina Banovac of my staff by telephone at (301) 287-0686 or by email at [Kristina.Banovac@nrc.gov](mailto:Kristina.Banovac@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michele Sampson, Chief  
Licensing Branch  
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-27  
License No.: SNM-2514

TAC No.: L24472

cc: Humboldt Bay Service List  
(w/o enclosures)

Enclosures:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Finding of No Significant Impact

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**G:/SFST/Humboldt Bay/Amendment 3/ltr to CEC w final EA-FONSI.docx  
ADAMS Pkg. Accession No. ML13266A283; Ltr ML**

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**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

cc:

Mr. Edward D. Halpin  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
P. O. Box 56  
Mail Code 104/6  
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Barry Allen  
Vice President - Diablo Canyon Operations  
and Station Director  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant  
P.O. Box 56  
Avila Beach, CA 93424

Loren Sharp, Director and Plant  
Manager, Humboldt Bay Nuclear  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
1000 King Salmon Avenue  
Eureka, CA 95503

Jennifer K. Post  
Law Department  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale Street, B30A  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Chairman, Humboldt County Board  
of Supervisors  
County Courthouse  
825 Fifth Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness, Room 4102  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Redwood Alliance  
P.O. Box 293  
Arcata, CA 95521

Dr. Rich Ferguson, Energy Chair  
Sierra Club California  
1100 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 311  
Sacramento, CA 94814

Gonzalo Perez, Branch Chief  
Radiologic Health Branch  
Div. of Food, Drug, & Radiation Safety  
CA Dept. of Health Services  
P.O. Box 997414, MS7610  
1500 Capitol Ave., MS 7610  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7414

Robert Weisenmiller, Chairman  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Deputy Attorney General  
State of California  
110 West A Street, Suite 700  
San Diego, CA 92101