



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 9, 2014

Mr. Jack Wada
3067 Corda Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Dear Mr. Wada:

This letter is in response to your letter dated June 1, 2014, to Chairman Macfarlane, regarding the possibility of a reactor meltdown at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) due to an earthquake. In your letter, you recommended that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shut down DCPP for this reason.

The NRC is the federal agency that regulates the commercial use of nuclear material in the United States. As part of our mission, we ensure that commercial nuclear reactors are operated in a manner that protects public health and safety. We regulate the two DCPP reactors that are located on the shore of the Pacific Ocean in San Luis Obispo County, California. The effect of earthquakes on those nuclear reactors has been extensively evaluated during the construction, licensing, and operation of DCPP and the results of these evaluations have concluded that DCPP and its major components are designed to withstand and perform their safety functions during and after a major seismic event, thereby assuring public health and safety.

Nuclear power plants such as DCPP are massive structures with thick exterior walls and interior barriers of reinforced concrete, and are among the most hardened commercial structures in the country. The NRC requires that these facilities be designed with a defense-in-depth philosophy to withstand dynamic events such as earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and floods. These requirements resulted in nuclear power plant designs that inherently afford a strong measure of protection against severe earthquakes.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. The NRC considers public involvement in, and information about, our activities to be a cornerstone of strong, fair regulation.

J. Wada

- 2 -

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Siva P. Lingam at (301) 415-1564.

Sincerely,



Eric R. Oesterle, Acting Chief
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-275 and 50-323

cc: Distribution via Listserv

J. Wada

- 2 -

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Siva P. Lingam at (301) 415-1564.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric R. Oesterle, Acting Chief
Plant Licensing Branch IV-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-275 and 50-323

cc: Distribution via Listserv

DISTRIBUTION: LTR-14-0393-1

PUBLIC

LPL4-1 Reading File

RidsAcrsAcnw_MailCTR

RidsEdoMailCenter

RidsNrrDorlLpl4-1

RidsNrrLAJBurkhardt

RidsNrrMailCenter

RidsNrrPMDiabloCanyon

RidsOgcMailCenter

RidsRgn4MailCenter

RidsSecyMailCenter

ADAMS Accession Nos. Package ML14196A492; Incoming ML14196A491;
Response ML14343A533 *via email

OFFICE	NRR/DORL/LPL4-1/PM	NRR/DORL/LPL4-1/LA	NRR/DORL/LPL4-1/BC (A)
NAME	SLingam	JBurkhardt*	EOesterle
DATE	12/4/14	12/4/14	12/9/14

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY