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Docket Nos. 50-275
and 50-323

Mr. Charles Hearn
1846 Placentia Avenue, Apt. D
Costa Mesa, California 92627

Dear Mr. Hearn:

B. C. Ruashe
E. G. Case
R. S. Boyd
R. Heineman
H. Denton
V. Stello
J. Miller
J. Stolz
D. Allison
E. Hylton
G. Ertter (#01026)
SECY Mail Facility (3)(76-2442)

Your letter of October 15, 1976 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been referred to me for reply. I am pleased to provide the information you requested, as discussed below.

You asked about the status of an operating license for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in connection with the discovery of a nearby fault. No operating license has been issued. Before one can be issued, the plant's seismic design capabilities must be reanalyzed in terms of a more severe earthquake which could originate on the nearby fault. The Commission's requirements regarding earthquake safety, which lead to this approach, are summarized in the enclosed document, "Risk of Earthquakes." Since the analysis is currently being performed, we do not yet know what plant modifications will be necessary.

You also asked about the Commission's safety precautions concerning the licensing of nuclear power plants and the handling of radioactive substances from these plants. These precautions are outlined in the enclosed documents, "Insuring Safe Design of Nuclear Power Plants," "Transportation of Nuclear Fuel and Waste," and "Disposal of Radioactive Waste."

You asked about the meaning of the word "nuke." I am not aware of a dictionary definition for this word. However, I have seen it used in a slang sense with the following meanings:

- (1) nuclear
- (2) nuclear power plant
- (3) nuclear powered ship
- (4) nuclear trained personnel
- (5) nuclear weapon

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Mr. Charles Hearn

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Finally, you asked about breeder reactors. Breeder reactors of several types have been built and operated in this country and elsewhere on an experimental basis. The U. S. Energy Research and Development Administration, in a joint venture with the electric utility industry, is planning to build a large plant at the Clinch River site in Tennessee to demonstrate the feasibility of using large scale commercial breeder reactors for electric power generation. This project is currently undergoing safety and environmental reviews by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in connection with an application for a construction permit. The enclosed report, ERDA 76-1, discusses energy choices for the future and indicates where breeder reactors might fit into a national energy plan.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ben C. Rusche, Director
Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. "Risk of Earthquakes", February 3, 1975
2. "Insuring Safe Design of Nuclear Power Plants", December 10, 1975 1975
3. "Transportation of Nuclear Fuel and Waste", January 2, 1976
4. "Disposal of Radioactive Waste", December 10, 1975
5. "A National Plan for Energy Research, Development & Demonstration: Creating Energy Choices for the Future", ERDA 76-1 (SUMMARY)

bcc: Pacific Gas and Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. John C. Morrissey
Vice President & General Counsel
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, California 94106

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