

JUN 14 1976

Docket Nos. 50-275 O.L.

50-323 O.L.

The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lagomarsino:

Your letter to former Chairman Anders dated May 25, 1976, concerning an inquiry by Mrs. Thelma Hirdler about the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant has been referred to me for response. The Diablo Canyon operating license application is presently the subject of a public hearing before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Since decisions and rulings by the Licensing Board are subject to review by the Commissioners, it would be inappropriate for the Chairman, now Marcus A. Rowden, to respond to inquiries regarding matters involving the pending hearing. Accordingly, I am pleased to respond to the inquiry.

Construction of Diablo Canyon, Unit No. 1 has been completed and Unit No. 2 is nearing completion. Before the plant may be licensed to operate, the Commission must determine that there is reasonable assurance that it can be so operated without undue risk to the health and safety of the public. The final phase of the safety review will be a public hearing scheduled for San Luis Obispo, California this fall.

A major safety concern with respect to the Diablo Canyon Plant has been its seismic design. In 1971, after the issuance of construction permits by the Atomic Energy Commission, evidence was published which indicated the presence of the hitherto unknown Hosgri Fault about three and one half miles offshore from the Diablo Canyon Plant. As a result, an extensive investigation was conducted to ascertain what seismic forces might be expected from the newly discovered fault and whether the plant was adequately designed to withstand these anticipated forces. To aid the NRC's geologic experts in this effort, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) was retained.

The USGS and the NRC staff have completed their studies and have determined that a hypothetical earthquake of magnitude 7.5 could occur along the Hosgri Fault. This earthquake is more severe than

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the original design earthquakes. Accordingly, the Applicant, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is currently performing a reanalysis to determine what modifications to the plant may be necessary to withstand such a hypothetical earthquake.

On the basis of the studies done by the Applicant and the NRC Staff, the information developed by NRC consultants, and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, and in addition to relevant information developed in the record of the public hearing, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will decide whether the plant can be operated with reasonable assurance of adequate protection for the public health and safety.

Enclosed for your information are NRC pamphlets which are relevant to the more general concerns of Mrs. Hirdler.

Sincerely,

Original signed
by H. K. Shapar

Howard K. Shapar
Executive Legal Director

Enclosures:

1. Licensing of Nuclear Power Reactors
2. Reactor Safety Fact Sheet
3. The NRC

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DATE: 10/15/48

TO: SAC, NEW YORK

FROM: SA [Name], NEW YORK

SUBJECT: [Name], [Address], [City], [State]

[Name] was born [Date] at [Place]. He is a [Nationality] and has been residing at [Address] since [Date]. He is employed as a [Occupation] at [Company Name].

[Name] has no known relatives in the United States. He has no known associates who are known to be active in the [Organization].

It is noted that [Name] has been in contact with [Name] at [Address] in [City], [State].

[Name] is a member of the [Organization] and has been active in the [City] chapter since [Date]. He has been seen at [Address] in [City], [State].

[Name] is a member of the [Organization] and has been active in the [City] chapter since [Date]. He has been seen at [Address] in [City], [State].

[Name] is a member of the [Organization] and has been active in the [City] chapter since [Date]. He has been seen at [Address] in [City], [State].

[Name] is a member of the [Organization] and has been active in the [City] chapter since [Date]. He has been seen at [Address] in [City], [State].