

JUN 1 1976

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Docket Nos: 50-275
and 50-323

Ms. Kay Ho
P. O. Box 150
Rosendale, New York 12472

Dear Ms. Ho:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of April 15, 1976 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You referred to a Time magazine article published February 9, 1976 and requested notification of the decision regarding the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and a summary of the facts used in reaching the decision.

The Commission's staff has made the determination which was contemplated for March 1976. However, as in other cases, the staff's determination is not a decision on whether or not to license the plant. The staff's technical evaluations and conclusions must first be reviewed by the independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. This Committee is an independent body of experts designated by Congress to review safety studies and facility license applications with a view toward advising the Commission with regard to the hazards of proposed or existing reactor facilities and the adequacy of proposed reactor safety standards. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will then hold public hearings to decide whether to issue operating licenses. If the decision so dictates, licenses can be issued at that time although the decision is subject to further review by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board and the Commission.

The staff determined that, before operating licenses can be issued, the plant must be reanalyzed for a magnitude 7.5 earthquake on the Hosgri fault. The reanalysis must show that the plant, after modification to incorporate any changes dictated by the analysis, will safely withstand such an earthquake. The plant's owner, Pacific Gas and Electric Company believes that a smaller earthquake should be used. Nevertheless, the Company is proceeding to perform the analysis as quickly as possible and when it is completed the staff will review it. After that review the staff will make its final determination on acceptability of the plant.

The magnitude 7.5 earthquake is more severe than the earthquakes for which the plant was originally designed. However, since large conservative safety margins were included in the original design of the major structures, it appears that refined analysis techniques may show that the plant is acceptable with a moderate amount of modification.

OFFICE >						
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1.

The first part of the document
 discusses the general principles
 of the system. It covers the
 basic concepts and the overall
 structure of the project. The
 second part of the document
 describes the implementation
 details. It includes the
 design of the components and
 the integration of the system.
 The third part of the document
 presents the results of the
 experiments. It shows the
 performance of the system and
 compares it with the existing
 methods. The fourth part of
 the document discusses the
 conclusions and the future
 work. It highlights the
 strengths and weaknesses of
 the system and suggests
 directions for further research.

The document is organized into
 several sections. The first
 section is the introduction,
 which provides an overview of
 the project. The second section
 is the literature review, which
 surveys the existing work in
 the field. The third section
 is the methodology, which
 describes the research approach
 and the experimental setup. The
 fourth section is the results,
 which presents the data and
 the analysis. The fifth section
 is the discussion, which
 interprets the results and
 discusses their implications. The
 sixth section is the conclusion,
 which summarizes the findings
 and the contributions of the
 work. The seventh section is
 the references, which lists the
 sources used in the document.

Ms. Kay Ho

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The staff's conclusions were published in Supplement No. 4 to the Safety Evaluation Report for Diablo Canyon, a copy of which is enclosed. The conclusions were based primarily on the independent review performed by the U. S. Geological Survey. The Survey's report, which is Appendix C to the enclosure, summarizes the facts and judgments used in determining the size of the earthquake to be assumed on the Hosgri fault.

I trust you will find this information responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
R. C. DeYoung

R. C. DeYoung, Assistant Director
for Light Water Reactors
Division of Project Management

Enclosure:
As stated

OFFICE >	DPM:LWR #3	DPM:LWR #3	ELD	DPM:A/D		
SURNAME >	DAllison:mjf	ODParr		RCDeYoung		
DATE >	6/ /76	6/ /76	5/28/76	6/ /76		

1947	1948	1949	1950
1951	1952	1953	1954

P.O.B. 150
Rosendale, New York 12472
April, 15, 1976

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

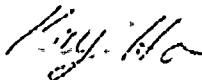
Dear Sirs/Madams:

On February 9, 1976, Time Magazine published an article on the Diablo Canyon Plants near San Luis Obispo, California.

The article stated that, due to the recent discovery of an underwater fault that was responsible for a 1927 earthquake estimated at 7.25 on the Richter scale, the Diablo Canyon Plants, which were built to withstand an earthquake registering 6.75 on the Richter scale, were to undergo re-examining by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The article further stated that you would have reached a decision by March 1, (I assume of 1976), whether or not you would license this plant.

If you could notify me of your decision regarding the plant, and briefly summarize the facts used in reaching this decision, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Kay Ho

