

Docket Nos. 50-275  
and 50-323

FEB 20 1976

Ms. Dorothy M. Hougaard  
4560 Lamplighter Lane  
Santa Maria, California 93454

Distribution

Docket File	Dallison
NRC PDR	EIGoulbourne (w/cy of incoming)
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RSBoyd	

Dear Ms. Hougaard:

Your letter of February 9, 1976 has been referred to me for reply. Your letter expressed concern about the risk associated with earthquakes at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and urged dismantling the facility.

First, let me say that there is currently no significant risk to the public health and safety associated with earthquakes at the Diablo Canyon site. The reactors have never operated and do not have operating licenses. Pacific Gas and Electric Company does have a license for storage of new reactor fuel at the site. The Commission's staff has evaluated this new fuel storage and determined that it involves no significant risk even if an earthquake should occur which is much more severe than those considered in the plant's design.

With regard to an operating license, it must be established that the plant is adequately designed to withstand earthquakes which could occur at the site before an operating license can be issued. The Commission's staff is currently evaluating the operating license application and has not yet made final conclusions concerning the seismic design of the plant. The enclosure provides further details concerning this evaluation. I can assure you that all actions necessary to ensure an acceptable level of safety will be required before an operating license can be issued.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
Olan Parr

Olan D. Parr, Chief  
Light Water Reactors  
Branch No. 3  
Division of Project Management

Enclosure:  
Diablo Canyon Seismic  
Design Evaluation

OFFICE	DPM:LWR-#3	DPM:LWR-#3				
SURNAME	Dallison:mt	ODParr				
DATE	2/ /76	2/ /76				



ENCLOSURE

DIABLO CANYON SEISMIC DESIGN EVALUATION

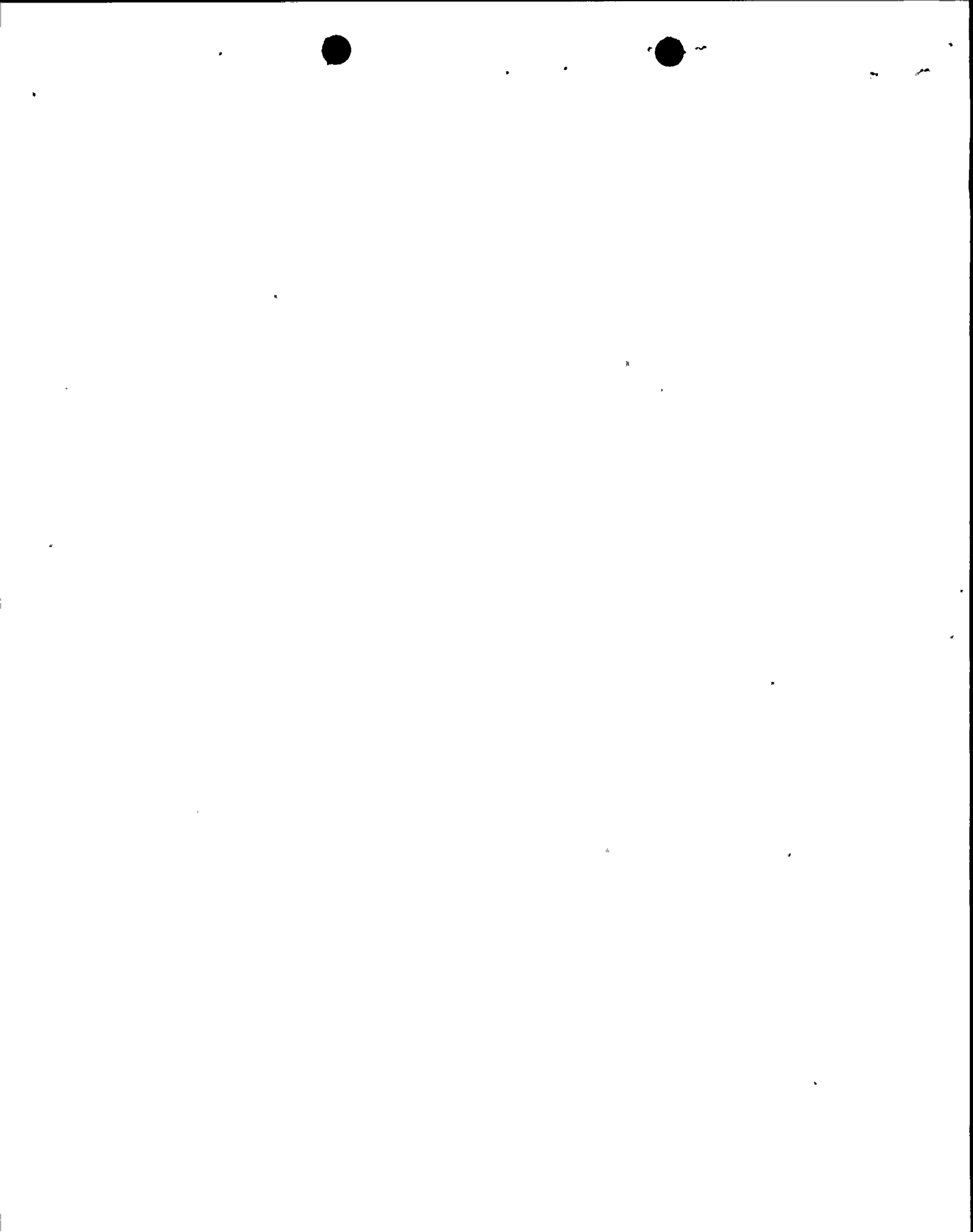
The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is located on the coast about 12 miles from San Luis Obispo, California. Construction is nearly completed for the first of the two units at this site. The owner, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, applied for an operating license in 1973. The Commission's staff is currently evaluating the operating license application. This evaluation, which is now nearing completion, has been delayed nearly two years by considerations associated with the Hosgri fault.

Construction permits were issued in 1968 and 1970 for Units 1 and 2, respectively, at the Diablo Canyon site. Based on the investigations conducted at that time the plant was designed to withstand the following earthquakes:

- (1) A great earthquake of magnitude 8.5 along the San Andreas fault 48 miles from the plant.
- (2) A major earthquake of magnitude 7.25 along the Nacimiento fault 20 miles from the plant.
- (3) A major earthquake of magnitude 7.5 along the off-shore extension of the Santa Ynez fault 50 miles from the plant.
- (4) An aftershock of magnitude 6.75 not associated with a known fault 6 miles from the plant.

After the construction permits were issued, offshore investigations conducted by Shell Oil Company showed the existence of a fault which had previously been unmapped. This is the Hosgri fault which runs offshore from the vicinity of Point Sal on the south to Point San Simeon on the north and passes within about 3 1/2 miles of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant at its closest approach.

Since the beginning of the operating license review, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has conducted additional investigations and submitted extensive information on the characteristics of the fault, its capabilities for producing earthquakes and the ability of the plant to withstand earthquakes which are more severe than those considered in the original design. The U. S. Geological Survey has also conducted extensive investigations concerning the characteristics and capabilities of the Hosgri fault. The staff has not yet made final conclusions on the capabilities of this fault for producing earthquakes or the acceptability of the plant's seismic design.



In evaluating these matters the staff has the assistance of its consultants, including the U. S. Geological Survey. When the staff's evaluation is completed these matters must be considered by other bodies before an operating license can be issued. They will first be evaluated by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. Then the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold public hearings near the plant site. At these hearings the Board will consider the evidence and recommendations presented by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the Commission's staff, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and other parties, including the State of California and interested citizens, before making a decision concerning an operating license.



11-11-11

Santa Maria, Ca.  
9 Feb. 1976

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V. L. H. : P. Beckel and

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Sirs:

I hope you believe in rescuing people from dangerous situations.

None of us here in this area wants to live with a never-ending threat of death or worse if an earthquake occurs there by Diablo Canyon where the nuclear reactor plant is built. I ask you not to risk having an "accident." It would be no accident, of course, as everyone knows the fault is active and that PG&E made a mistake when they picked that site.

We hope you will dismantle this potential horror - the nuclear power plant - and find some other way to meet the energy need here.

This isn't the case of an Evel Kneivel who risks his own life in whatever way he pleases. It would be gambling with other people's lives which is neither legally or morally right.

Sincerely

*Dorothy M. Hougaard*

Dorothy M. Hougaard  
4560 Lamplighter Ln.  
Santa Maria, Ca. 93454

2/12/76  
10:20

