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SEP 30 1976

Docket Nos. 50-275
and 50-323

Mr. J. S. Surfluh
P. O. Box 666
Morro Bay, California 93442

Dear Mr. Surfluh:

I am writing in response to your letter of September 6, 1976 to the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The Diablo Canyon operating license application is currently pending before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Since any decisions and rulings by the licensing board are subject to review by the Commissioners, it would be inappropriate for the Chairman to respond to inquiries regarding matters involved in the record of the hearings. Accordingly, your letter has been referred to me and I am pleased to respond.

First, let me discuss the status of the Diablo Canyon Plant. Construction of Unit 1 was essentially completed in Spring 1976. Since then, the unit's operation has been delayed pending resolution of seismic design questions related to the offshore Hosgri fault. The Commission's geology and seismology consultant, the U. S. Geological Survey, concluded that a magnitude 7.5 earthquake could occur on this fault, which runs about 3 1/2 miles from the plant. This represents more severe ground shaking than was originally used in the plant's design. The Commission's regulations require that a nuclear power plant be designed to safely withstand the largest potential earthquake that could be expected to occur at the plant site considering the regional and local geology and seismology and specific characteristics of local subsurface material. Accordingly, the Commission's staff requested an evaluation of the plant's seismic capabilities in light of the more severe conditions. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is currently performing such an evaluation. These matters are more fully discussed in Sections 2.5 and 3.7 of Supplements 4 and 5 to the staff's Safety Evaluation Report for Diablo Canyon. Copies of these documents are enclosed.

OFFICE						
SURNAME						
DATE						

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Mr. J. S. Surfluh

When the evaluation is completed the Commission's staff will review it. As in other cases, the matter will then be reviewed by the independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. Following that, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold public hearings and decide whether to issue an operating license. All of the various contentions allowed by the Licensing Board will be addressed at the public hearings. The limiting factor with respect to time of completion will be resolution of the seismic design issues. It presently appears that it will take about eight more months to complete the evaluation and then conclude the licensing process. I can assure you that every effort is being made and will be made to complete the licensing process for this plant as soon as possible.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:
Ben C. Rusche
Ben C. Rusche, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Supplements 4 and 5
to the Safety Evaluation
Report for Diablo Canyon

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

ms 9/29/76
BRusche 9/29/76

OFFICE	LWR 1 <i>DL</i>	LWR 2 <i>JStolz</i>	AD/LWR <i>DBV</i>	DPM <i>RBoyd</i>	NRR	NRR
SURNAME	DAllison/red	JStolz	DBVassallo	RBoyd	ECase	BRusche
DATE	9/28/76	9/28/76	9/28/76	9/29/76	9/ /76	9/29/76



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Name	Address
Mr. J. H. Smith	123 Main St.
Mr. W. B. Jones	456 Elm St.
Mr. T. C. Brown	789 Oak St.
Mr. R. D. White	101 Pine St.
Mr. S. E. Green	202 Cedar St.
Mr. L. F. Black	303 Birch St.
Mr. K. G. Gray	404 Spruce St.
Mr. H. I. Blue	505 Willow St.
Mr. J. K. Red	606 Ash St.
Mr. M. N. Purple	707 Hickory St.
Mr. P. Q. Yellow	808 Sycamore St.
Mr. R. S. Orange	909 Magnolia St.
Mr. T. U. Green	1010 Dogwood St.
Mr. V. W. Blue	1111 Redwood St.
Mr. X. Y. Purple	1212 Cypress St.
Mr. Z. A. Yellow	1313 Juniper St.
Mr. B. C. Orange	1414 Fir St.
Mr. D. E. Green	1515 Spruce St.
Mr. F. G. Blue	1616 Pine St.
Mr. H. I. Purple	1717 Oak St.
Mr. J. K. Yellow	1818 Elm St.
Mr. L. M. Orange	1919 Birch St.
Mr. N. O. Green	2020 Cedar St.
Mr. P. Q. Blue	2121 Birch St.
Mr. R. S. Purple	2222 Spruce St.
Mr. T. U. Yellow	2323 Pine St.
Mr. V. W. Orange	2424 Oak St.
Mr. X. Y. Green	2525 Elm St.
Mr. Z. A. Blue	2626 Birch St.
Mr. B. C. Purple	2727 Spruce St.
Mr. D. E. Yellow	2828 Pine St.
Mr. F. G. Orange	2929 Oak St.
Mr. H. I. Green	3030 Elm St.
Mr. J. K. Blue	3131 Birch St.
Mr. L. M. Purple	3232 Spruce St.
Mr. N. O. Yellow	3333 Pine St.
Mr. P. Q. Orange	3434 Oak St.
Mr. R. S. Green	3535 Elm St.
Mr. T. U. Blue	3636 Birch St.
Mr. V. W. Purple	3737 Spruce St.
Mr. X. Y. Yellow	3838 Pine St.
Mr. Z. A. Orange	3939 Oak St.
Mr. B. C. Green	4040 Elm St.
Mr. D. E. Blue	4141 Birch St.
Mr. F. G. Purple	4242 Spruce St.
Mr. H. I. Yellow	4343 Pine St.
Mr. J. K. Orange	4444 Oak St.
Mr. L. M. Green	4545 Elm St.
Mr. N. O. Blue	4646 Birch St.
Mr. P. Q. Purple	4747 Spruce St.
Mr. R. S. Yellow	4848 Pine St.
Mr. T. U. Orange	4949 Oak St.
Mr. V. W. Green	5050 Elm St.
Mr. X. Y. Blue	5151 Birch St.
Mr. Z. A. Purple	5252 Spruce St.
Mr. B. C. Yellow	5353 Pine St.
Mr. D. E. Orange	5454 Oak St.
Mr. F. G. Green	5555 Elm St.
Mr. H. I. Blue	5656 Birch St.
Mr. J. K. Purple	5757 Spruce St.
Mr. L. M. Yellow	5858 Pine St.
Mr. N. O. Orange	5959 Oak St.
Mr. P. Q. Green	6060 Elm St.
Mr. R. S. Blue	6161 Birch St.
Mr. T. U. Purple	6262 Spruce St.
Mr. V. W. Yellow	6363 Pine St.
Mr. X. Y. Orange	6464 Oak St.
Mr. Z. A. Green	6565 Elm St.
Mr. B. C. Blue	6666 Birch St.
Mr. D. E. Purple	6767 Spruce St.
Mr. F. G. Yellow	6868 Pine St.
Mr. H. I. Orange	6969 Oak St.
Mr. J. K. Green	7070 Elm St.
Mr. L. M. Blue	7171 Birch St.
Mr. N. O. Purple	7272 Spruce St.
Mr. P. Q. Yellow	7373 Pine St.
Mr. R. S. Orange	7474 Oak St.
Mr. T. U. Green	7575 Elm St.
Mr. V. W. Blue	7676 Birch St.
Mr. X. Y. Purple	7777 Spruce St.
Mr. Z. A. Yellow	7878 Pine St.
Mr. B. C. Orange	7979 Oak St.
Mr. D. E. Green	8080 Elm St.
Mr. F. G. Blue	8181 Birch St.
Mr. H. I. Purple	8282 Spruce St.
Mr. J. K. Yellow	8383 Pine St.
Mr. L. M. Orange	8484 Oak St.
Mr. N. O. Green	8585 Elm St.
Mr. P. Q. Blue	8686 Birch St.
Mr. R. S. Purple	8787 Spruce St.
Mr. T. U. Yellow	8888 Pine St.
Mr. V. W. Orange	8989 Oak St.
Mr. X. Y. Green	9090 Elm St.
Mr. Z. A. Blue	9191 Birch St.
Mr. B. C. Purple	9292 Spruce St.
Mr. D. E. Yellow	9393 Pine St.
Mr. F. G. Orange	9494 Oak St.
Mr. H. I. Green	9595 Elm St.
Mr. J. K. Blue	9696 Birch St.
Mr. L. M. Purple	9797 Spruce St.
Mr. N. O. Yellow	9898 Pine St.
Mr. P. Q. Orange	9999 Oak St.
Mr. R. S. Green	10000 Elm St.

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