50-275

AUG 4 1978

The Honorable Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

This is in response to your letter of July 7, 1978, concerning the constituent referral question from Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Bailey of Morro Bay, California, about potential releases of radioactive dust (particulates) from the Diablo Canyon Station.

Mrs. Bailey's concerns were discussed with her by phone on July 24, 1978. She indicated that her concern was health risks resulting from the normal release of effluents from the Diablo Canyon Station, which are evaluated in the Environmental Statement and Safety Analysis Report.

Mrs. Bailey suggested that we obtain more detail on the situation by calling her source of information, Mrs. Raye Fleming, who is a leader in the "Mothers for Peace" organization. We talked to Mrs. Fleming on July 26 regarding her concerns about the exposure to radiation of people living in the vicinity of the plant. At her request, we have sent her two studies comparing the health effects of different types of electrical generation facilities: NUREG-0332, "Health Effects Attributable to Coal and Nuclear Fuel Cycle Alternatives," listed as enclosure 1 and an American Medical Association report dated June 21, 1978, enclosure 2.

In the process of licensing nuclear power plants, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required to evaluate each plant's proposed design to assure that the emission control equipment is capable

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of meeting the appropriate federal regulations. We have reviewed the proposed effluent treatment, control, and monitoring systems for Diablo Canyon Station and have determined that they are capable of meeting regulations governing the releases of radioactive materials (including radioactive particulates) in effluents. The gaseous treatment systems contain high efficiency particulate air filters on all vent and ventilation exhaust lines which are highly effective in removing radioactive particulates that may be released from the station. The staff's evaluation of these systems is contained in Chapter 11 of the NRC's Safety Evaluation Report, and Amendment No. 6 to the Safety Evaluation Report, which we have enclosed for your information and use. The operating license for Diablo Canyon Station will require that the high efficiency particulate air filters be maintained and used, thereby providing reasonable assurance that potential releases of radioactive materials are maintained at very low levels so as not to adversely affect public health, safety or the environment.

To provide a basis of comparison of the capabilities of the gaseous treatment systems, the acceptable design limits for all radioactive particulates and radioiodines in effluents from the station is 15 mrem/year and the proposed design of the gaseous treatment systems was based on maintaining these releases at 15 mrem/year or less. Our evaluation, shown in Table 11.3 of Amendment No. 6, concludes that the gaseous treatment system will be capable of reducing these releases from each unit at Diablo Canyon Station to approximately 1 mrem/year. Only a small fraction of the dose to an individual will be due to the particulate contribution. In other words, the individual dose exposure, due to radioactive particulates in effluents from the operation of Diablo Canyon Station, will be extremely small compared to radiation exposure due to natural radiation background, which is approximately 100 mrem/year.

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We trust the above information is responsive to the question raised by Mr. and Mrs. Bailey. As you requested, we are providing this report in duplicate and returning your enclosure.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Deputy Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:
1. NUREG-0332, "Health Effects Attributable to Coal and Nuclear Fuel Cycle Alternatives"
2. Report of the Council of Scientific Affairs, Report: C (A-78), Adopted by AMA House of Delegates, June 21, 1978
3. Safety Evaluation Report of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2
4. Amendment No. 6 to the Safety Evaluation Report of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2
5. Card of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey

Docket File 50-275/323
NRR Reading File
DSE Reading File
ETSB Reading File
ETSB Docket File
JSBoegli

			EDO	ONRR	ONRR	OCA
				EGCase	HRDenton	
			8/2/78	7/31/78	8/1/78	8/3/78
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SURNAME	JSBoegli:co	WCBurke	JTCollins		RHVolmer	DMuller
DATE	07/26/78	7/26/78	7/26/78	7/27/78	7/27/78	7/27/78

49-27775

bcc: w/o enclosure
H. Denton
D. Muller
R. Vollmer
J. Collins
L. Gossick
W. Burke
G. Ertter (EDO-04126)
M. Groff
M. Jambor
SECY Main Fac (3) (76-04126)
OCA (3)
NRC PDR (enclosed letter, 7/7/78)
Local PDR
Courtesy Copy to Senator Cranston (w/incoming enclosure)

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