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February 14, 1977

Mr. Marcus A. Rowden, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20055

Dear Sir:

This summer the state of California faces a great power shortage, and already the power company is talking about lowering the voltage and also curtailing the usage by roll-around shut downs.

The farmers in the Valley will need more water from the underground, and this means additional power needs.

The local power company, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, has built a nuclear power plant at Diablo Canyon, California. One unit of over one million kilowatts per hour is ready to start operation in a few months, if it were not for drawn out court litigation by various parties. Another unit of the same size will be ready next year. Behind these reactors is experience gained by operating nuclear reactors for over 25 years. No serious faults nor accidents have happened in all those years. New safeguards have been added constantly. Better technology has increased the safety of reactors tremendously.

In my opinion, there is no reason why the present pending litigations with environmentalists and other complainants couldn't be overruled by declaring a state of emergency and a temporary permit for operation be granted to Pacific Gas & Electric Co., subject to strict supervision and inspection of the operating plant.

After talking with the Public Relations Department of Pacific Gas & Electric Co., I found that if a permit is issued, they could be on steam within 3 to 4 months.

It is a disservice to the public that a facility able to produce up to 10% of the energy requirement of Northern California is not available to bridge us over the hydroelectricity shortage, both in California and in the Northwest.

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The time for remedial action is now, and I would appreciate it if you would secure a court order, to proceed immediately with granting an emergency permit to Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

We are a small manufacturer of special machinery for manufacturing batteries, which we sell worldwide. Even occasional shut downs of our power would be very detrimental to our operation, and our employees would be hurt.

Thank you very much for your efforts in behalf of the people of California, and I remain,

Very truly yours,

E. G. Tiegel
Tiegel Manufacturing Company

EGT:dh

cc: President Carter
Governor Brown
Senator Hayakawa
Congressman Ryan
Congressman McCloskey
Senator Cranston
P G & E., San Francisco

