

FEB 18 1976

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Docket Nos. 50-275
and 50-323

Ms. Barbara Carlson
1522 Los Rios Court
San Jose, California 95120

Dear Ms. Carlson:

Your letter of February 5, 1976 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been referred to me for reply. Your letter urged the Commission to postpone licensing the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant until the plant can be made to withstand an earthquake of the magnitude that is possible. We share your concerns and I can assure you that all actions necessary to ensure an acceptable level of safety will be required before an operating license is issued for the plant.

The enclosure describes the history and status of our evaluation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant's seismic design. I trust you will find this information responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
O. D. 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			
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

ENCLOSURE

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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.

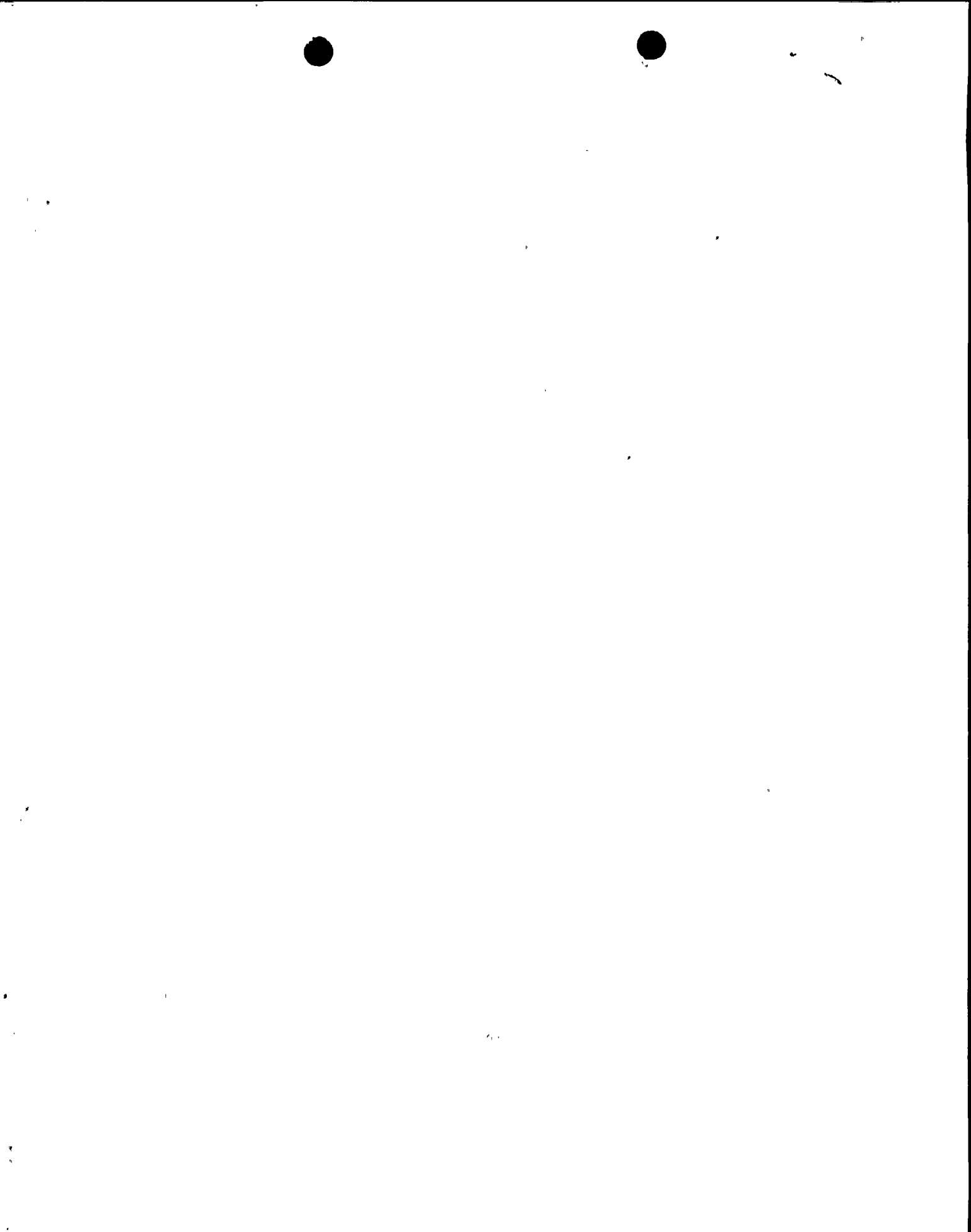
Since the beginning of the operating license review, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has conducted additional investigations and submitted extensive information on the characteristics of the fault, its capabilities for producing earthquakes and the ability of the plant to withstand earthquakes which 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.



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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.



Feb. 5 1976
1522 Lookins Ct.
San Jose, Calif. 95120

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in opposition
to the NRC granting an operating
license to the Diablo Canyon
nuclear power plant in California.

The price we would pay, if
PG&E is wrong & a quake does
occur, is too great!

I urge you to postpone licens-
ing until the plant can be
made to withstand a quake of
the magnitude that is possible

Rec'd Off. Dir.
Date 2/11/76
Time 11:00

Sincerely,
Barbara Carlson

Rec'd Off. of the
Director
Regulation

Date 2/11/76

By 2/11/76

