

# PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

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May 16, 1975

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Elizabeth S. Bowers, Esq.  
Chairman  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Landow Building - Room 1209  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: Dockets 50-275-OL  
50-323-OL

Dear Mrs. Bowers:

The Board's order dated April 30, 1975 raised three questions concerning the abalone mortality last year, the probability of reoccurrence of a discharge of metal contaminants, and the capabilities of the monitoring program. Information concerning the possibility of a reoccurrence of high levels of metal contaminants and the capabilities of the monitoring program is contained in my letter to you dated April 30, 1975, which was served on the other Board members and all parties.

My letter of April 30, 1975 also gave you the boundaries of the areas in which abalone mortality was observed. You specifically asked if investigations beyond those boundaries were conducted. The material we provided with our letter and the Company report on the incident included in Supplement 4 to the Environmental Report explain that the investigations did extend beyond the boundaries of the observed mortality. Monitoring observations and sampling and analyses have been made on the NE/NW half of Diablo Cove, South Cove, and the California Department of Fish and Game control station north of Diablo Cove. (The artificial basin formed by the breakwaters is called Intake Cove, and the natural cove to the south of Intake Cove is called South Cove. The control station is in a natural cove north of Diablo Cove, which is sometimes called Field's Cove.) No unexplained mortality has been observed anywhere except SE/SW Diablo Cove. Copper levels in tissues of abalone, algae, and urchins are not elevated above historically documented values anywhere except in SE/SW Diablo Cove. In SE/SW Diablo Cove elevated copper concentrations in tissues have been found in live, healthy organisms. No tissue analyses were made on the moribund organisms counted and reported by CDF&G.

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Elizabeth S. Bowers, Esq.

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May 16, 1975

Investigations were not made outside Diablo Cove because of the small possibility of significant impact. Immediately outside Diablo Cove water depths exceed 60 feet over a sandy bottom. Benthic organisms do not thrive and are not diverse or plentiful in this habitat. Suspended solids carried outside the Cove by the discharge plume would be mixed and diluted to unmeasurably small concentrations above ambient seawater values.

Very truly yours,

Philip A. Greene

CC: Board Members  
All Parties  
James R. Tourtellotte, Esq.



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