

June 14, 1976

Docket Nos. 50-275 O.L.  
50-323 O.L.

The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lagomarsino:

Your letter to former Chairman Anders dated May 25, 1976, concerning an inquiry by Mrs. Thelma Hirdler about the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant has been referred to me for response. The Diablo Canyon operating license application is presently the subject of a public hearing before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Since decisions and rulings by the Licensing Board are subject to review by the Commissioners, it would be inappropriate for the Chairman, now Marcus A. Rowden, to respond to inquiries regarding matters involving the pending hearing. Accordingly, I am pleased to respond to the inquiry.

Construction of Diablo Canyon, Unit No. 1 has been completed and Unit No. 2 is nearing completion. Before the plant may be licensed to operate, the Commission must determine that there is reasonable assurance that it can be so operated without undue risk to the health and safety of the public. The final phase of the safety review will be a public hearing scheduled for San Luis Obispo, California this fall.

A major safety concern with respect to the Diablo Canyon Plant has been its seismic design. In 1971, after the issuance of construction permits by the Atomic Energy Commission, evidence was published which indicated the presence of the hitherto unknown Hosgri Fault about three and one half miles offshore from the Diablo Canyon Plant. As a result, an extensive investigation was conducted to ascertain what seismic forces might be expected from the newly discovered fault and whether the plant was adequately designed to withstand these anticipated forces. To aid the NRC's geologic experts in this effort, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) was retained.

The USGS and the NRC staff have completed their studies and have determined that a hypothetical earthquake of magnitude 7.5 could occur along the Hosgri Fault. This earthquake is more severe than

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

PH.D. THESIS

BY

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the original design earthquakes. Accordingly, the Applicant, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is currently performing a reanalysis to determine what modifications to the plant may be necessary to withstand such a hypothetical earthquake.

On the basis of the studies done by the Applicant and the NRC Staff, the information developed by NRC consultants, and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, and, in addition to relevant information developed in the record of the public hearing, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will decide whether the plant can be operated with reasonable assurance of adequate protection for the public health and safety.

Enclosed for your information are NRC pamphlets which are relevant to the more general concerns of Mrs. Hirdler.

Sincerely,  
Original signed  
by H. K. Shapar

Howard K. Shapar  
Executive Legal Director

Enclosures:

1. Licensing of Nuclear Power Reactors
2. Reactor Safety Fact Sheet
3. The NRC

Distribution:

Davis	OGC
Tourtellotte	PE
Grossman	PA
Engelhardt	OCA (3)
Shapar	Secy 76-1785
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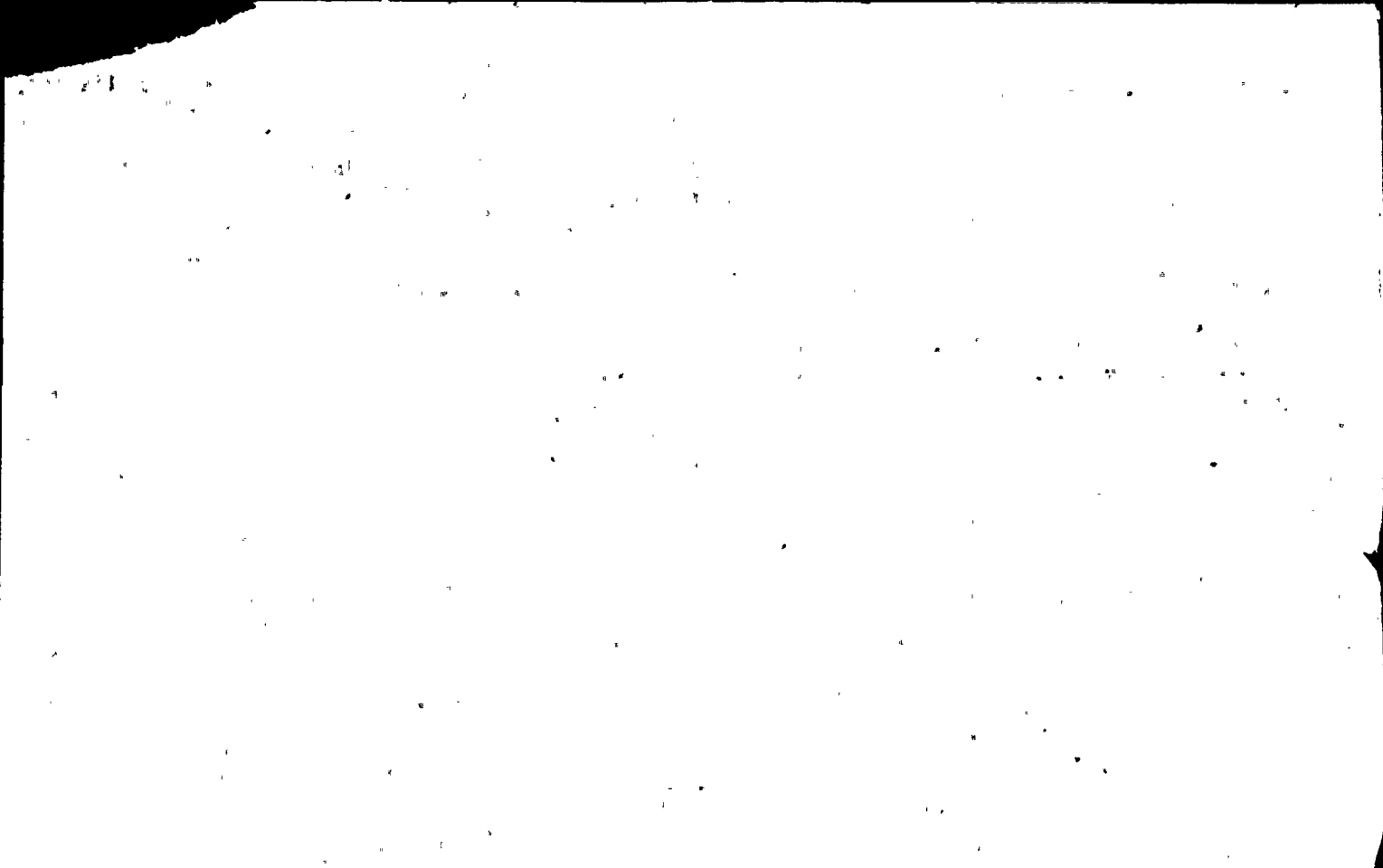
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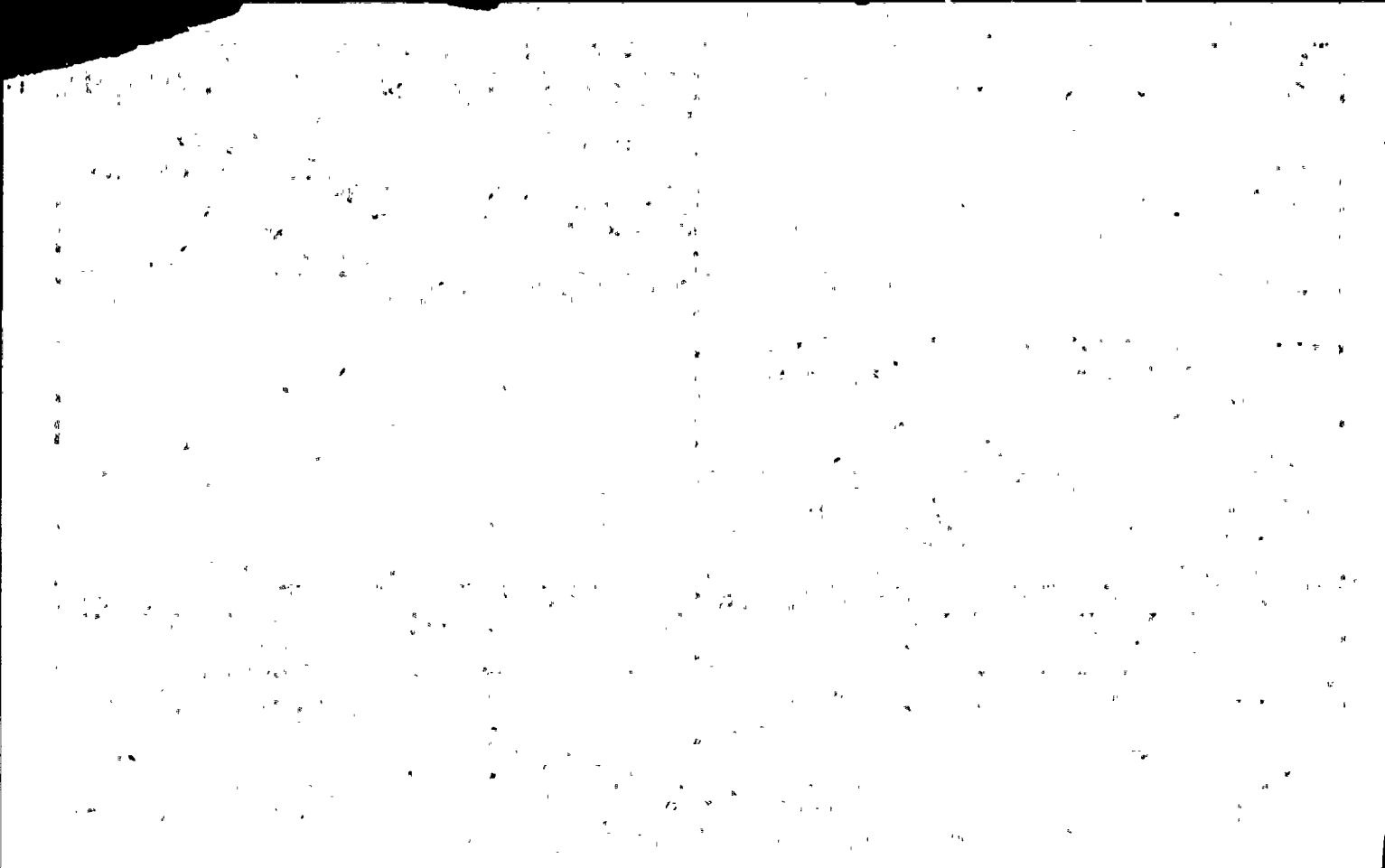
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		INTERIM REPLY				<b>5/25/76</b>	
TO: <b>Chairman Anders</b>		FINAL REPLY: <i>1/18/76</i>		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: <b>Shaper</b>	
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<b>Inquiry of Thelma Medler re status of Diablo Canyon &amp; safety of nuclear power plants</b>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEAD</b> <i>[Signature]</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>SECT 76-1789</b></p>					
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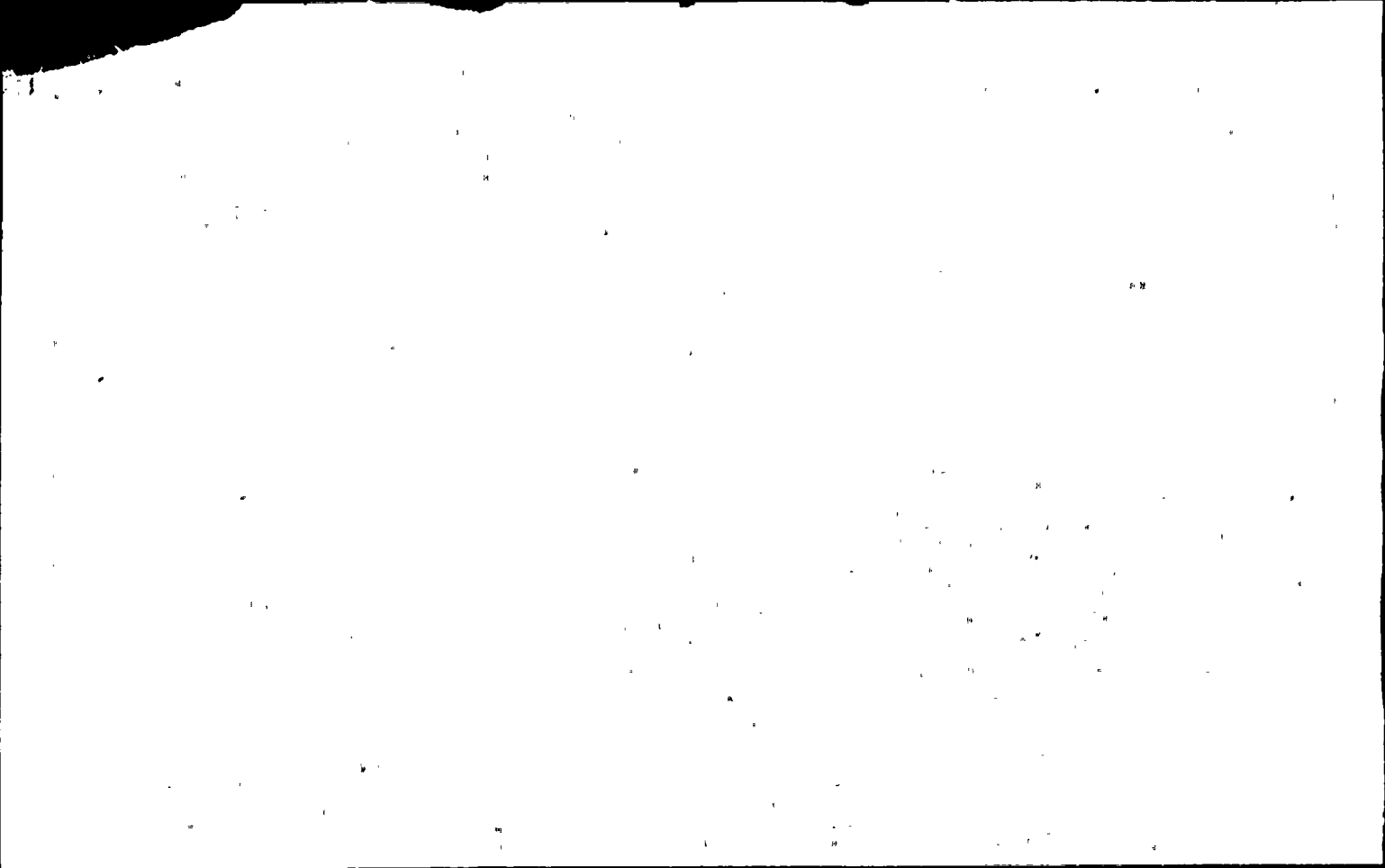


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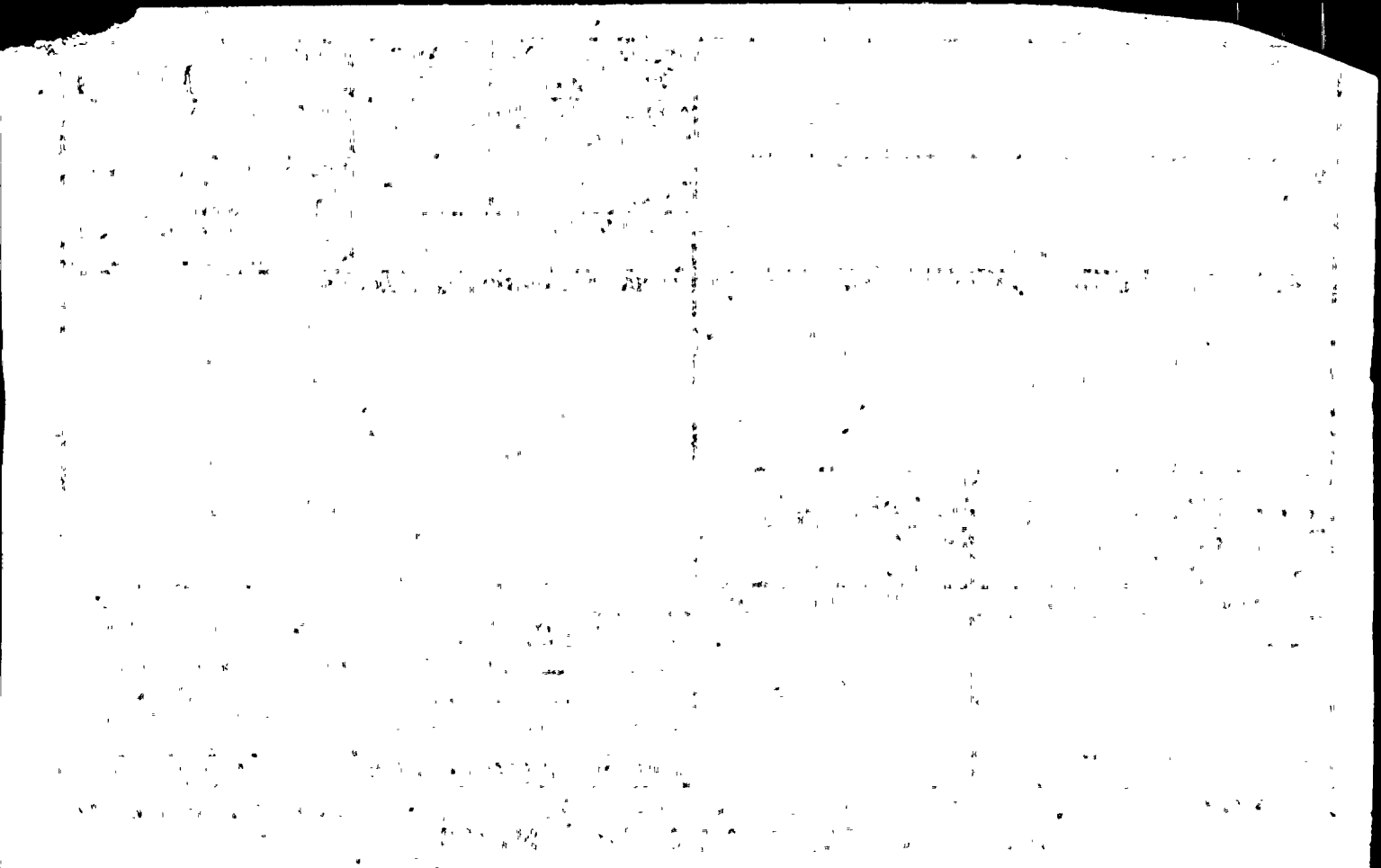












No. 76-1785

Logging Date 5/27/76

NRC SECRETARIAT

- TO:  Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Exec. Dir./Oper.  Gen. Counsel
- Cong. Liaison  Solicitor
- Public Affairs  Secretary
- Attn. ELD

Incoming: Robert J. Lagomarsino, H.R.

From: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Chairman Anders Date 5/25/76

Subject: Referring correspondence from Mrs. Thelma Hirdler re Diablo Canyon nuclear facility and its safety.

Prepare reply for signature of:

- Chairman
- Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_
- EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
- Signature block omitted
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Return original of incoming with response

NOTE: The " correspondence " referred to Rep. Lagomarsino was via a telephone conversation between Mrs. Hirdler and the Congressman's State Field Office. A Memorandum to this effect is attached.

- For direct reply\*
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

SUSPENSE: June 10

Rec'd Off. Dir. i

Date 5/28/76

Time 9:15

Remarks: Logged Ex Parte. Original to Docket File. Cy of incoming to OGC, PE, Secy, PA, OCA. OCA to acknowledge.

For the Commission: W. J. [Signature]

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility



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ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO  
19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1319 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3601

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND  
SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR  
AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION  
TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

May 25, 1976

William A. Anders, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C.

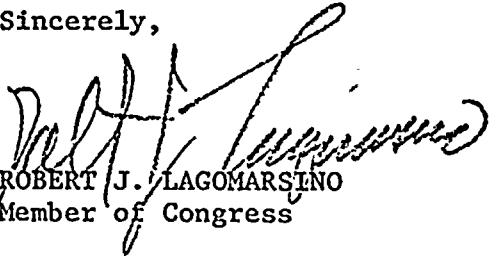
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have enclosed correspondence from a member of my constituency; Mrs. Thelma Hirdler, regarding the Diablo Canyon nuclear power facility in California. Mrs. Hirdler is most concerned about the safety of nuclear reactors and, in particular, the status of the power plant at Diablo Canyon.

I would appreciate receiving an up-to-date report on this matter so that I may more fully respond to Mrs. Hirdler.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO  
Member of Congress

RJL:ls



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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Congressman Lagomarsino

DATE: May 19 1976

FROM : KK

SUBJECT: Questions about your position on Nuclear Plant at Diablo Canyon

Mrs. Thelma Hirdler  
811 Fair Oaks,  
Arroyo Grande, Ca 489 4951  
93420

Mrs. Hirdler understands you said there should be no investigation of the Nuclear Plant at Diablo. Seems like she heard a TV report and you said you are in favor of no investigation.

This caused her to ask: Why is he in favor of Nuclear Plants.

Mrs. Hirdler expressed her strong opposition to Nuclear Plants



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