

DEC 27 1979

Mr. David S. Fleischaker
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Dear Mr. Fleischaker:

I am pleased to respond to your October 19, 1979 letter to Harold Denton which was referred to me for reply. In your letter, you urged the immediate review of certain seismic matters and emergency operating procedures discussed during the October 3, 1979 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) meeting in addition to the application of the recommendations contained in NUREG-0578 to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plants. Moreover, you state that evaluation of the above cited matters should include appropriate consideration of seismic activity to the extent it is applicable to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plants. Finally, you urge conditioning of the operating license pending satisfactory resolution of the various technical issues.

In regard to the seismic issues, the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) will be submitting their proposed criteria for evaluating the effects of multiple failures of non-seismic Category I systems on the safety of the plant in early January 1980 for the NRC staff review.

With respect to emergency operating procedures, the NRC staff is conducting a review of Diablo Canyon emergency procedures to ensure, among other things, that they contain adequate provisions to mitigate the consequences of a severe earthquake affecting the Diablo Canyon Plants.

Regarding the human factors in control and operation of a nuclear power plant, the accident at Three Mile Island, Unit 2 has shown that improvements can and must be made in the area of human/machine interface. Toward this end, we have required that all operating personnel at nuclear power plants receive additional training in anticipated plant transients and multiple accident conditions. Additionally, recommendations have been made to the Commission which will require operating personnel to undergo simulated reactor control room examinations. The NRC staff is also presently reviewing the design of control rooms including the applicability of existing technology outside of the nuclear industry to identify where improvements can be made in this area. The NRC agrees with all of the President's Commission recommendations on improved control room designs. Modifications will be required of existing control rooms to improve the information provided to the operators according to criteria now being developed by the staff.

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The Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has submitted reports dated July 1979, August 27, 1979 and an Addendum to the latter report dated October 26, 1979 in response to the NRC's TMI-2 Short-term Lessons Learned Report. Our NRC Task Group is reviewing PG&E's response.

In addition, the staff has issued a draft Action Plan on December 11, 1979, as requested by the Commission, describing suggested changes or programs to develop changes in regulatory requirements, research, procedures and practices that have been recommended as a result of studies of the accident at Three Mile Island Unit 2. The draft plan was developed to respond to recommendations from several sources namely, the Congress, The President's Commission, the Government Accounting Office, the NRC ACRS, and several NRC Offices and Task Forces. The draft plan is an integrated NRC plan, addressing the entire NRC program with implementation deadlines. Our proposed schedule estimates that an approved Action Plan may be adopted by the Commission by mid-February 1980. We expect that the approved Action Plan will require additional action to be taken by PG&E on a schedule established on the plan, and any license that may ensue, will be appropriately conditioned as required.

I trust that the above information has been responsive to the issues raised in your letter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

för/

D. B. Vassallo, Acting Director
Division of Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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