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REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

OCT 24 1980

Mr. Bill Martin
514 Woodland Drive
Arroyo Grande, California 93420

Dear Mr. Martin:

Your June 1980 letter to President Carter, regarding the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, has been referred to the NRC for reply. I am pleased to make this reply.

You expressed concern over the effects of low level radiation and the emergency preparedness and evacuation of the area surrounding Diablo Canyon in view of the accident at Three Mile Island last year. Our responses to the concerns mentioned above are contained in Enclosures 1 and 2 to this letter. With respect to the plant's physical security plan, this matter is presently before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board. The hearings are scheduled on or about November 10, 1980.

A copy of all the documents related to Diablo Canyon facility can be found in the Local Public Document Room (LPDR). This LPDR is located at the California Polytechnic State University Library, Documents and Maps Department, San Luis Obispo, California 93407.

I trust this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank J. Miraglia, Acting Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:

- 1. Low Level Radioactivity Effects
- 2. Emergency Preparedness and Evaluation

OFFICE	DL:LB.#3	DL:LB.#3	DL:LB.#3		
SURNAME	KNJabbour	FJMiraglia			
DATE	10/6/80	10/9/80	10/9/80		

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ENCLOSURE 1

Concern: Low Level Radioactivity Effects.

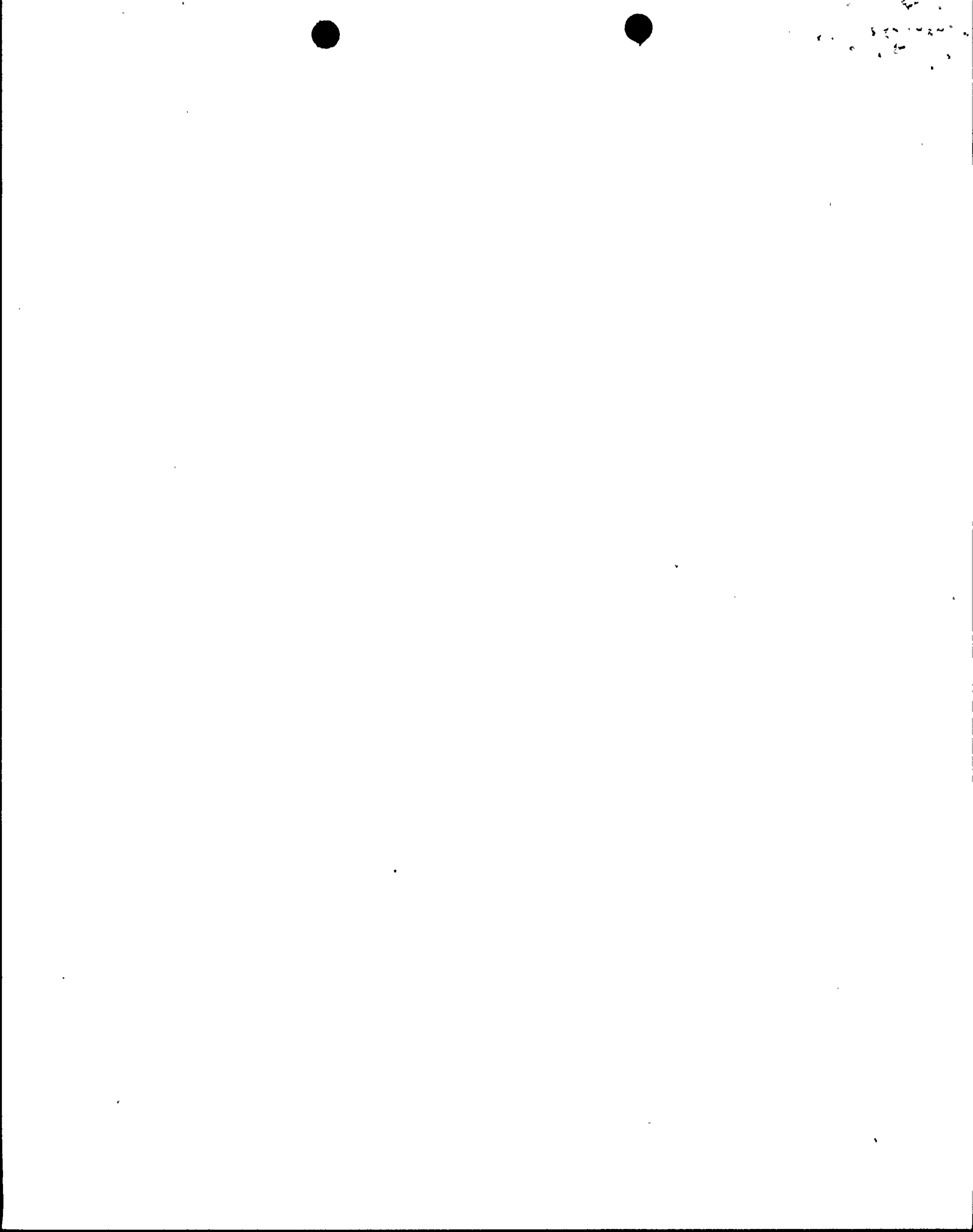
Response: In the matter of low level radiation hazards, the Commission has always subscribed to the principle that radiation exposure of the public should be kept as low as is reasonable achievable. This principle has been a central one in the field of radiation protection for many years.

Operating licenses of nuclear power plants include provisions to limit and control radioactive effluents from the plants. The term "as low as is reasonably achievable" requires taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety, other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and the relationship of these to the use of nuclear energy in the public interest.

The Commission has adopted numerical guidelines for design objectives and limiting conditions for operation of nuclear power plants to meet the criterion of "as low as reasonably achievable" for radioactive material in effluents from nuclear power plants. Using these guidelines, the radiation resulting from radioactive release from nuclear power plants during normal plant operation is a small fraction of that received from natural background activity.

The NRC has expended substantial effort in studying the potential health effects of low-level radiation on humans. Funding has been allocated for research on the effects of specific radioactive isotopes and of epidemiology studies, the analyses of current research in the field of radiobiology and epidemiology and the drawing up of preliminary plans to study the feasibility of a large-scale epidemiology investigation on low level radiation effects. The NRC staff is also participating with international agencies on the control of long-lived radionuclide emissions from the nuclear fuel cycle.

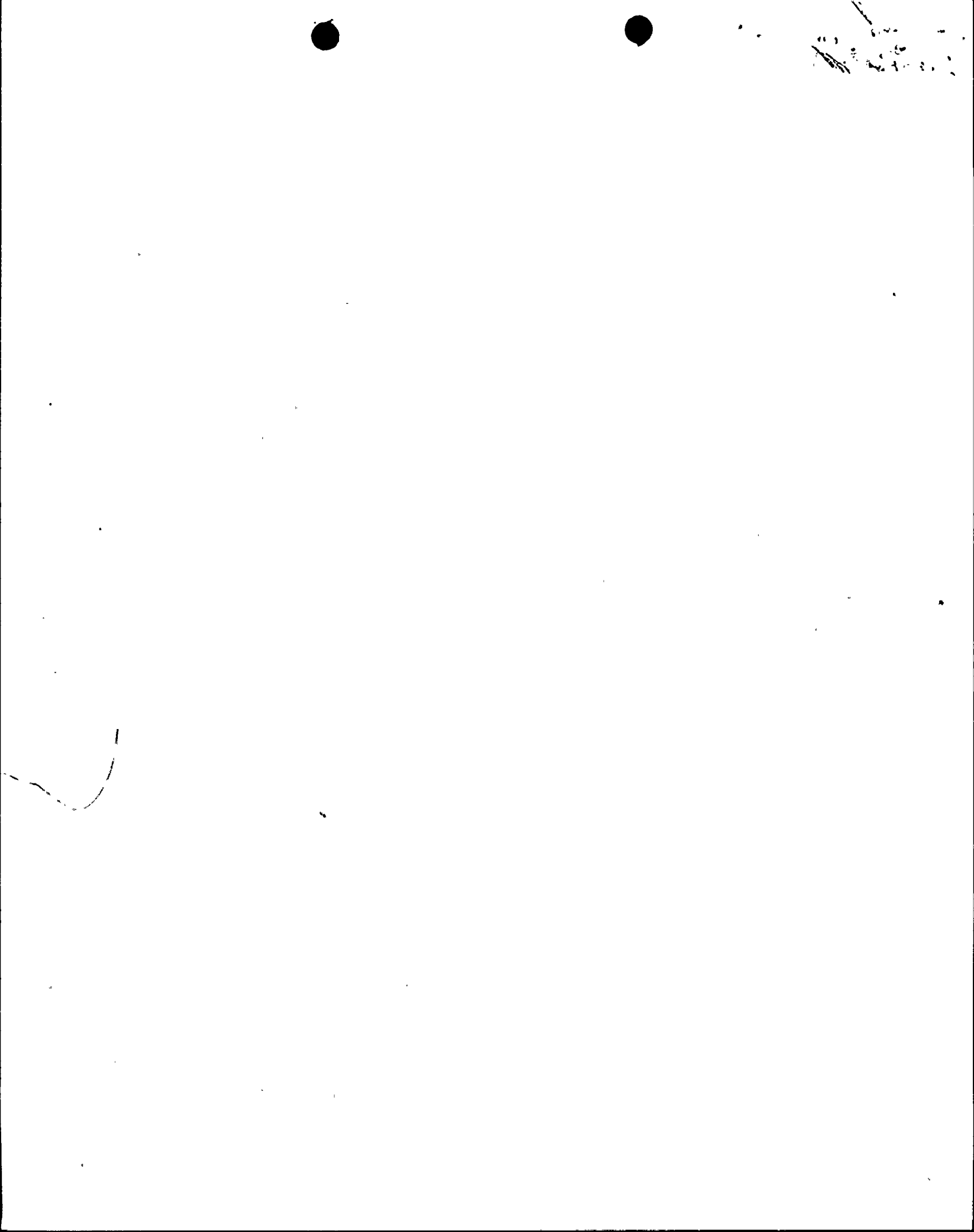
In regard to Diablo Canyon, environmental matters including low level radiation effluents from the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plants were the subject of proceedings in a public hearing. After extensive consideration, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board issued a Partial Initial Decision on June 12, 1978 and concluded that the effects of low level radiation from plant operation will be negligible and will result in no significant risk or increase of genetic defect incidence in the population of the San Luis Obispo area during the projected thirty years of operation.



ENCLOSURE 2

Concern: Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation of the area surrounding Diablo Canyon in view of the accident at Three Mile Island (TMI).

Response: Following the TMI-2 accident, the NRC has been re-examining the design and operation of all nuclear power plants including emergency evacuation plans needed to cope with potential accidents. The recommendations contained in the report by the President's Commission on the TMI-2 accident (the Kemeny Commission) as well as other actions recommended by various task forces within the NRC were considered and requirements have been established and published in NUREG-0694 for Near Term Operating Licenses. The Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has met our emergency planning requirements for fuel loading and low power testing. For a full power license PG&E's plan must be upgraded to be in compliance with NRC criteria in NUREG-0694, NUREG-0654, "Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants", and Commission guidance in the form of the new Appendix E to the Commission's regulations. The NRC staff will verify that all the applicable requirements have been met by PG&E before a full power license is granted.



FROM:

Bill Martin
514 Woodland Dr.
Arroyo Grande Calif. 93420
(White House Referral 6/25)

TO:

President Carter

DATE OF DOCUMENT

undated

Post-dated
6-10-80

DATE RECEIVED

7/7/80

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4162

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ACTION NECESSARY NO ACTION NECESSARY CONCURRENCE COMMENT

DATE ANSWERED:

BY: 7/22/80

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DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)

Subject: Diablo Canyon

ENCLOSURES:

Complete
10/27/80

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Post Mailed
June 10, 1980
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514 Woodland
Arroyo Grande
CA. 93420
(805) 481-0382

President Carter
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Sir:

I live near Diablo Canyon
Nuclear Plant and I want to know
how much damage I am if the
plant melts down? I know that it
is a good energy source, but is it
worth it?

If we build them it makes
it possible for terrorists to blow
them up. It is putting low-level radiation
into our air, and they present a possibility
of millions of dollars and many people
dying from a major accident. Please
send me some information about them.

