

Harold R. Denton  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations  
Washington, DC

*Rose*  
*800331*

Dear Mr. Denton:

I really hate to add to your problems -- on TV you look quite harrassed by the TMI situation. But I beg you to study the enclosed map, and at least pass it on to someone with time enough to DO something about it.

The map indicates weather and geography downwind from Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant -- facts which should have prevented PG&E from ever being allowed to break ground!

Note that I've marked PG&E's proposed 6-mile evacuation limit, and the 10-mile line proposed by the NRC; and consider our typical coastal weather here on the edge of the continent.

The Pacific is very cold; but 300 days of each year we have bright sunshine. The desert area on the eastern half of the map warms up, then the rising air draws the wind in through our coastal hills. It blows from 15 to 40 miles an hour, from about noon until sunset. Steadily. Strongly. Daily!

If there is a meltdown into the Pacific at Diablo, radioactive steam will rise into the wind for perhaps a full day, till the temperature of the atomic pile is cooled. The wind will carry this radiation to the NRC 10-mile line in about 20 minutes. The next 10 minutes will carry it across the city of San Luis Obispo (population 34,000, including 13,000 students at Cal Poly University). Within the first hour the coastal towns, and Santa Maria, and Vandenberg Air Force and Space Base would be hit.

115,000 people would have been hit by these radioactive winds.

The situation changes in our rainstorms. We get all our rain in long winter storms, when the wind wheels around to blow from the SOUTH, with gusts often up to 60 miles an hour. My husband and I live in the Baywood Park-Los Osos area, 8 miles NORTH of Diablo. Last month a rainy gust blew down a large tree in our yard; it lay pointing straight away from Diablo.

In the same storm, as often happens from the 4th day on, floodwaters closed BOTH of our (2-lane) roads out of here. With our 9600 population, our 2 doctors

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-- and a helicopter service -- stood by for emergencies. But of course, there aren't helicopters enough to evacuate us....

In such a storm, we would be caught in radioactive rain in the first 10 minutes. Morro Bay would get it in 15 minutes, Atascadero in a half hour, and Paso Robles well within the first hour.

62,000 people live downwind from Diablo in a storm!

For God's sake, accept this fact!

Sorry; I'll go on more calmly to the evacuation possibilities:

SOUTH: Freeway 101 is the only fast road, for those who could get onto it.

EAST: Route 166 east from Santa Maria is the only fast road; but it is nearly 50 miles to the nearest meager supply of gas, food, water. Routes 58, 41, 46 lead equally far into empty desert country. I've marked the few crossroads where there are one or two gas stations and perhaps a store.

NORTH: Freeway 101 again is the only escape. (Note the back side of the map: At Atascadero there are 2 northbound on-ramps for 14,000 people; at Paso Robles, 2 on-ramps for 8800 people!)... Coastal Route 1 narrows to 2 lanes at San Simeon, and becomes the dangerous "Big Sur road." Often closed by storms or fog, it winds for 90 miles along ladder-steep slopes above the sea, with only a few supply points for the coastal ranches.

WEST: West, of course, there is only the Pacific.

Had no one ever given the NRC this information before?

In case of a meltdown, you cannot build roads to get us to safety in time. And no one can prevent a meltdown merely by declaring there is no danger of it -- as PG&E persists in doing. Even a 10-mile evacuation proposal is "a sick joke" -- ash from Mt. St. Helens is blowing ~~300~~ miles right now. And balloons released near Diablo have been returned from 300 miles east.

We have plenty of natural gas in California; why isn't the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulating Diablo

April 3, '80



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† INSISTING

instead of US, by proposing/that Diablo convert to gas?

If the meltdown begun at TMI is completed here,  
our death toll -- SLOW deaths -- will be far higher  
than Pearl Harbor. And only our fellow-Americans  
to blame!

How can NRC members copy the notorious Kimmel and Short  
-- who were so positive that Pearl Harbor was  
perfectly safe over the weekend of December 7, 1941?

Sincerely,

*Laura L. Anson*

Mrs. And Mrs. William B. Anson  
1724 Thirteenth Street  
Los Osos, California 93402

31 Mar, 1980

Enclosed  
1 map.



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FROM:

Mrs. William B. Anson



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3/25/80

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