UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

Before Administrative Judges: Elizabeth S. Bowers, Chairman Glenn O. Bright Dr. Jerry R. Kline SERVED MAR 12 1981

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In the Matter of:

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

(Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 & 2) Docket Nos. 50-275 OL 50-323 OL

(March 10, 1981

ORDER RELATIVE TO ISSUANCE OF SUPPLEMENT 12 TO THE SER

In the prehearing conference on January 28 and 29, 1981, the Staff announced that Supplement 12 to the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) would not be issued on March 31 as previously predicted. It was stated that Supplement 12, understood to be the last Staff document relative to the full power operating license, appeared to be slipping to May or June. The Staff is requested to give a status report on issuance date of the document and to inform the Board if there are other matters still pending with the Staff relative to the full power operating license.

It is this 10th day of March 1981

ORDERED

That the requested report be furnished as promptly as possible.

FOR THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

Elizabeth S. Bowers
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

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The Honorable Don Bailey United States House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bailey:

Your letter of February 18, 1981 to Mr. John F. Ahearne regarding Plato Canyon has been referred to me for reply and I am pleased to make this response.

Our responses to your questions are provided below:

Question (1): What remains to be done to issue an operating license for the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant?

Response (1): Diablo Canyon is one of the Near Term Operating License (NTOL) plants. Its operating license will be issued in two stages in the following order:

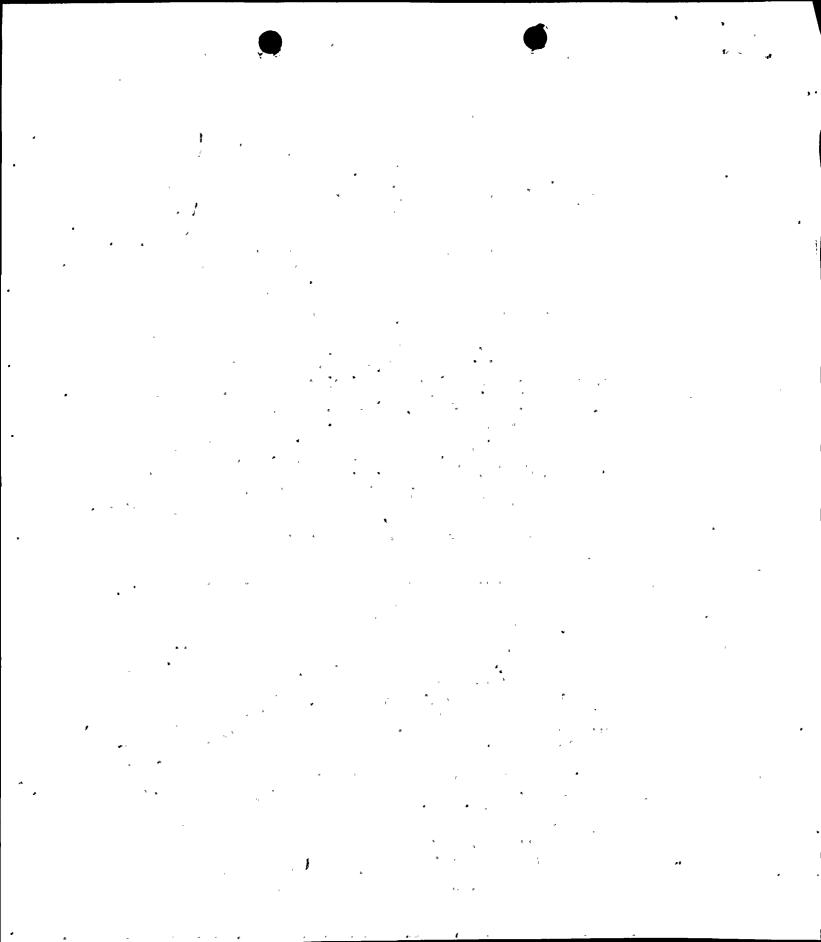
1-Fuel load and low power (not to exceed five percent of full power) tests license.
2-Full power license.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has filed a motion last year with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) for authorization to load fuel and conduct low power testing prior to final Commission action with respect to PG&E's application for a full-term operating license. The NRC staff subsequently issued a supplement to the Diablo Canyon Safety Evaluation Report which addressed additional issues related to new Commission requirements arising from the Three Mile Island (TMI) accident. Intervenors and Governor Brown have sought to reopen the record on Diablo Canyon with respect to these matters. The ASLB has admitted some issues as a result of Intervenors' arguments and has scheduled hearings on TMI-related issues to commence on May 19, 1981. Assuming that existing Commission procedures remain unchanged, a decision is not expected until February of 1982. Currently, all parties to the proceeding are seeking Commission review of the ASLB decision to conduct further hearings on TMI-related issues.

Early in 1980, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board (ASLAB) reopened the record on earthquake design and facility security issues. The Appeal Board conducted evidentiary hearings on these matters in October and November 1980 and is expected to issue a decision on those issues within the next month.

With regard to the full power license, the NRC will issue a supplement to the Diablo Canyon Safety Evaluation Report on TMI issues related to full power and several remaining other issues. This supplement is scheduled to be completed this month. This will complete the NRC staff actions with respect to full power license. A Commission decision on full power operation is not expected before March of next year. 8104020127

- Question (2): What is the schedule of activities leading to a license?
- Response (2): The schedule has been furnished along with the issues in our response to question (1).
- Question (3): What organization or person has responsibility to accomplish each required activity by the scheduled date? What controls are in place to control schedule performance?
- The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) is responsible Response (3): for completing the SSERs and for providing testimony at the hearings held by ASLB and/or ASLAB. The NRR has a steering group to prioritize the resolution of various issues. Once an issue or a plant is given priority, a schedule for target dates of licensing review milestones up to and including the issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report and weekly meetings are utilized by management to eliminate or minimize schedule delays. One of the pacing items in this process is the interaction with the utility which has to provide responses to issues raised by the NRC staff in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (Title 10). Activities related to the hearing and/or appeal proceedings and their schedule are under the control of the ASLB and/or ASLAB. These Boards are independent bodies appointed by the Commission.
- Question (4): Explain any differences in the requirements for Diablo Canyon from those for the three plants designated "Near Term Operating License" plants a year ago.
- Response (4): The Commission has issued new dated requirements applicable to all nuclear power plants as a result of the TMI accident. The number of requirements to be completed by a utility applying for an operating license for a plant increases as time progresses. Thus, there are some differences in the number of the dated requirements now required vis-a-vis those required a year ago. Furthermore, the dated requirements must be met at the specified date for all operating plants or prior to fuel loading for those applying for operating licenses unless certain relief is found to be justified by the staff. In addition, hearings for Diablo Canyon have been more vigorously contested than were the NTOL plants and have, therefore, taken longer to conclude (the proceedings for Sequoyah and Salem 2 nuclear plants were not contested). North Anna Unit 2 was an NTOL plant, but hearings were held for both North Anna Units 1 and 2 (prior to completion of North Anna Unit 1)



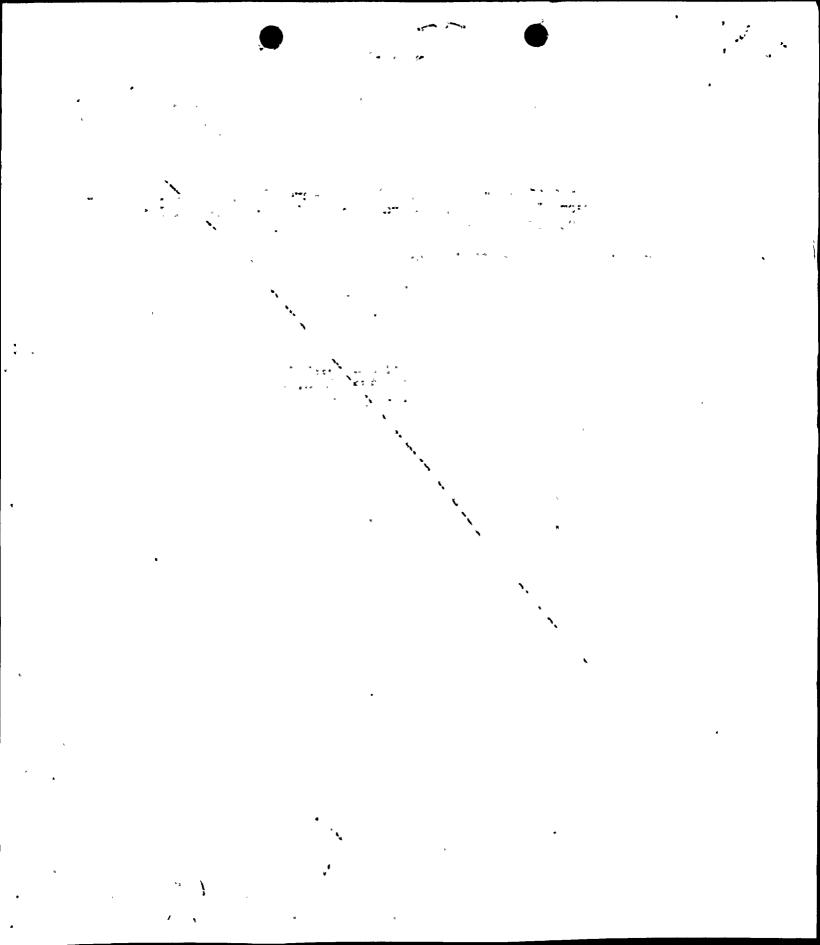
and decisions were rendered by the Boards in March 1978. The decision allowed North Anna to operate at full power and TMI issues were not contested.

I trust that this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks
William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

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- Ouestion (2): What is the schedule of activities leading to a license?
- Response (2): The schedule has been furnished along with the issues in our response to question (1).
- What organization or person has responsibility to accomplish each required activity by the scheduled date? What controls Question (3): are in place to control schedule performance?
- Response (3): The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (ONRR) is responsible for completing the SSERs and for providing testimony at the hearings held by ASLB and/or ASLAB. The ONRR has a steering group to prioritize the resolution of various issues. Once an issue is given priority, the Bevill schedule and weekly meetings are the management tools utilized to meet target dates and to minimize schedule delays. One of the pacing items in this process is the interaction with the utility which has to provide responses to issues raised by the NRC staff in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulation (Title 10). The ASLB and the ASLAB are independent bodies appointed by the Commission.
- Question (4): Explain any differences in the requirements for Diablo Canvon from those for the three plants designated "Near Term Operating License" plants a year ago.
- Response (4): There are no differences in the requirements for Diablo Canyon from those for the three plants designated NTOL plants a year ago. The proceedings for Sequoyah and Salem 2 nuclear plants were not contested. Hearings were held for North Anna Units 1 and 2 and decisions were rendered by the boards on March 1, 1978. The decision allowed North Anna to operate at full power and TMI issues were not contested.

I trust that this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely.

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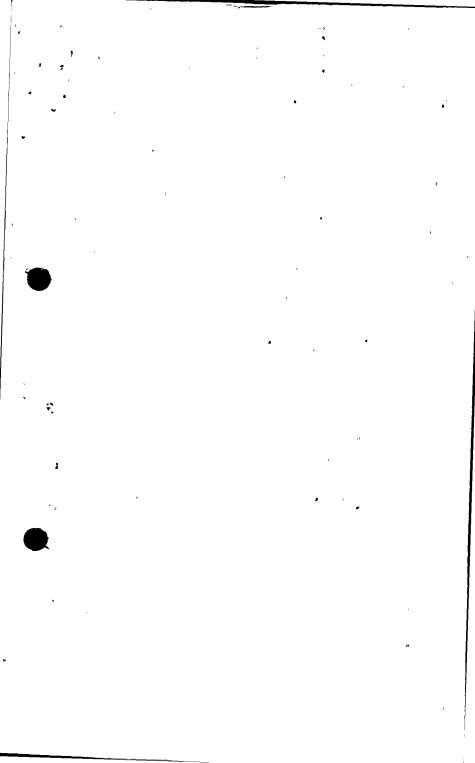
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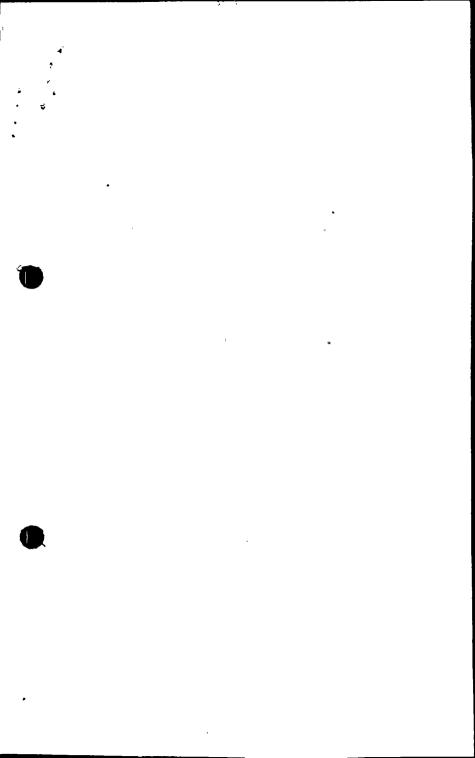
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