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 EISENHUT, D.G. Division of Licensing

SUBJECT: Forwards ltr. from project info specialist giving background
 for two articles in San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune. No one
 from util reviewed any NRC draft repts.

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1. Eisenhut -
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J. O. SCHUYLER
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION

June 9, 1983

Mr. Darryl G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555

Dear Mr. Eisenhut:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from our Diablo Canyon Project Information Specialist in which he gives the background for the two articles in the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune forwarded to you by Joel Reynolds with his letter of May 25, 1983. As you can see, there is no cause for Mr. Reynolds or anyone else to be alarmed as the whole thing arose out of a misunderstanding between the reporter and our representative. At no time did anyone at PG&E review any NRC drafts of its report on the matter in question.

Very truly yours,

JOSchuyler

Enclosure

cc w/encl:
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FILE NO.

RE LETTER OF
SUBJECT

Response to Telegram-Tribune Articles

To Division or
Department

June 2, 1983

MR. P. CRANE:

On Monday, May 9, Carl Neiburger of the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune contacted me regarding recently-released testimony of two former inspectors at Diablo Canyon. While doing the interview with the Tribune, I was asked what PG&E's impression was as to the seriousness of the allegations contained in the testimony. Specifically, the reporter was referring to allegations concerning improprieties relating to the removal of red tags used to mark welding deficiencies.

I contacted Rick Etzler, General Construction Project Manager at Diablo Canyon, and discussed the questions with him. From this discussion, I called the Tribune to tell them that "the red tags were from areas where problems had been corrected but paperwork documenting the corrections hadn't been completed." I told the Tribune that "while their removal was a technical violation," the problem was minor and clerical in nature. I told the Tribune that this information was gathered from preliminary internal reports which identified no major problems. The story ran on May 10.

In conveying this information to the reporter, there was a misunderstanding regarding the source of the information. The reporter thought I was referring to preliminary NRC documents when, in fact, I was referring to PG&E's own reports. We had not seen any preliminary NRC drafts. When the article came out in the Tribune, I contacted the reporter the next day to make a correction.

On May 13, a correction was printed. The reporter told me that in order for a correction to be printed, someone had to be wrong. I attempted to re-explain my original answer, but saw that his response wasn't clear. So, in an attempt to expedite the formal correction, I told the reporter that even if he had to attribute the correction to me, he should do so to assure a prompt and clear correction.

George C. Sarkisian

GEORGE C. SARKISIAN

GCS(647-262):bs



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