

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
DOCKETS NOS. 50-275 AND 50-323
DENIAL OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has denied a request by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the licensee) for amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-80 and DPR-82, issued to the licensee for operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (the facility), located in San Luis Obispo County, California.

The denied amendments, as proposed by the licensee, would modify the combined Diablo Canyon Unit 1 and Unit 2 Technical Specifications to allow continued power operation with the reactor vessel level indication system (RVLIS) inoperable.

The licensee's application for the amendments was dated March 13, 1987. Notice of Consideration of issuance of these amendments was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on August 12, 1987 at 52 FR 29927.

The purpose of the RVLIS is to provide the plant operator with additional information on reactor vessel water level, particularly during transient events. RVLIS supplements existing instrumentation in order to ensure an unambiguous, easy-to-interpret indication of inadequate reactor core cooling.

The existing Diablo Canyon RVLIS technical specifications are in accordance with NRC guidelines given in (1) Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3,



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"Instrumentation for Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants to Assess Plant Conditions During and Following an Accident," May 1983; (2) NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements," November 1980; and (3) the current standard technical specifications (STS) for Westinghouse pressurized water reactors. Specifically, the existing Diablo Canyon technical specifications for RVLIS meet the required number of instrument channels, and the frequency for checks, calibration, and testing of the system, and the operability requirements for all accident monitoring instrumentation. The operability of the accident monitoring instrumentation ensures that sufficient information is available on important plant parameters to monitor and assess these variables following an accident.

If the proposed change were granted, the RVLIS operability requirements would revert to those that were in place during the first cycle of operation. When the Diablo Canyon Technical Specifications were originally issued, the staff considered this issue and made the finding that relaxation of the STS requirements was appropriate only for the first cycle. The staff sees no reason to modify this finding at this time.

Accordingly the request was denied. The licensee was notified of the Commission's denial of the request by letter dated March 27, 1989.

By May 1 , 1989, the licensee may demand a hearing with respect to the denial described above and any person whose interest may be affected by the proceeding may file a written petition for leave to intervene.

A request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene must be filed



W. J. ...

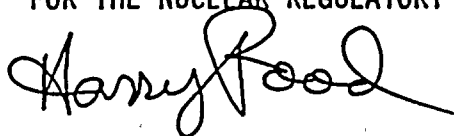
with the Secretary of the Commission, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street N. W., Washington, DC, by the above date.

A copy of any petitions should also be sent to the Office of General Counsel, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Richard R. Locke, Esq., Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O. Box 7442, San Francisco, California 94120 and Bruce Norton, Esq., c/o Pacific Gas and Electric Company, P.O. Box 7442, San Francisco, California 94120.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendments dated March 13, 1987, and (2) the Commission's letter to Pacific Gas and Electric Company dated March , 1989, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, DC 20555, and at the California Polytechnic State University Library, Government Documents and Maps Department, San Luis Obispo, California 93407. A copy of item (2) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV, V and Special Projects.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of March, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects



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