

# CATEGORY 1

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50-323 Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, Pacific Ga      05000323  
AUTH. NAME      AUTHOR AFFILIATION  
POWERS, R.P.      Pacific Gas & Electric Co.  
RECIP. NAME      RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
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SUBJECT: Noncompliance notification: on 970110, green sea turtle identified in circulating water intake structure. SCUBA divers surrounded turtle w/net & turtle lifted to intake deck. Turtle released 1/4 mile outside intake cove.

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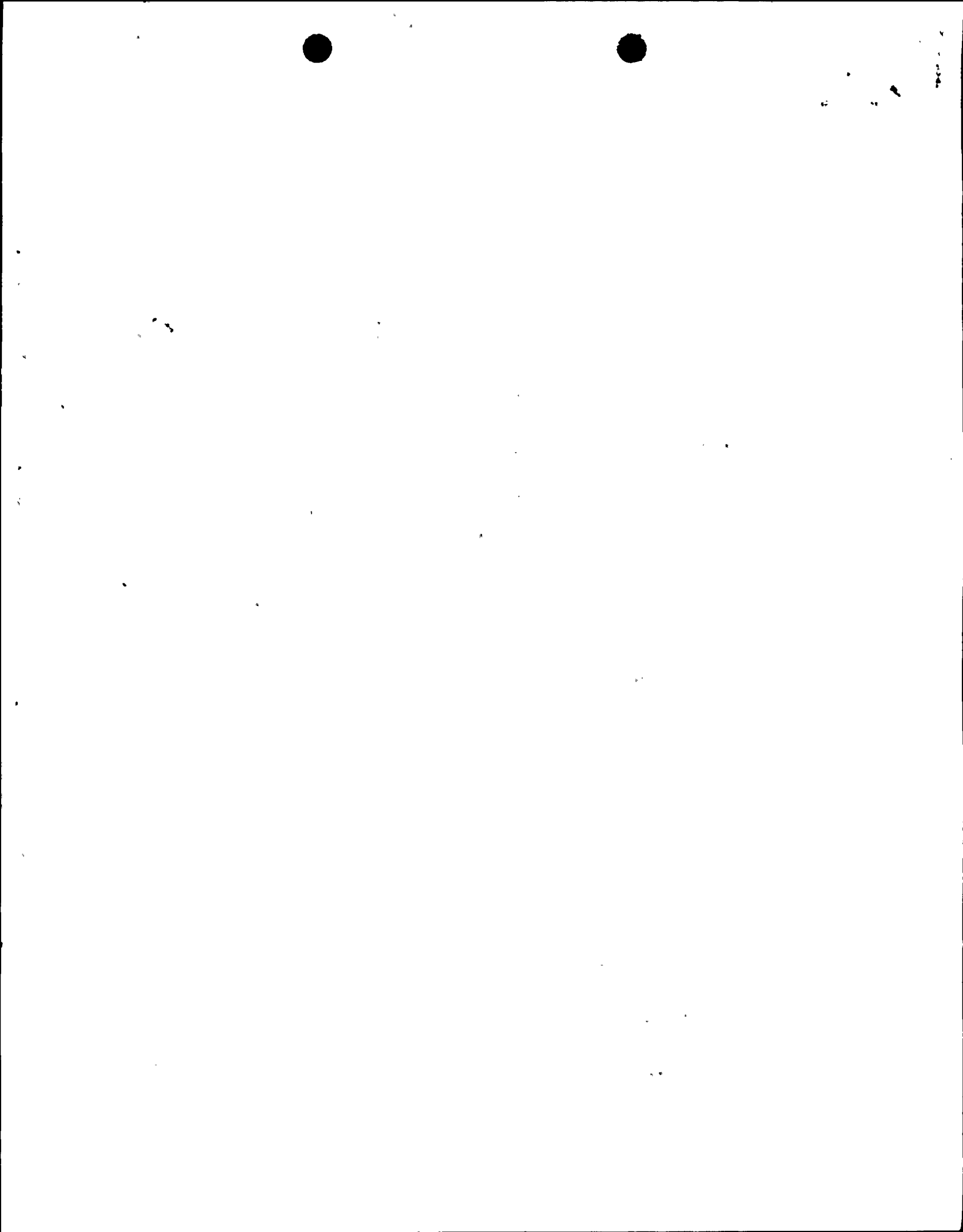
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Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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Robert P. Powers  
Vice President—Diablo Canyon  
Operations and Plant Manager

February 7, 1997

PG&E Letter DCL-97-011



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-80  
Docket No. 50-323, OL-DPR-82  
Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2  
Unusual Occurrence of Federally Protected Species

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

PG&E is submitting the enclosed report of a green sea turtle found at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant circulating water intake structure on January 10, 1997 at approximately 1000 PST. This report is being submitted in accordance with the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) Environmental Protection Plan. The turtle was rescued, verified to be in good condition and released in the open sea.

This event did not affect the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. P. Powers'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert P. Powers

cc: Steven D. Bloom  
L. J. Callan  
Stanley C. Ketelsen  
Kenneth E. Perkins  
Michael D. Tschiltz  
Diablo Distribution  
INPO

Enclosure

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## UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) requires the reporting of "any unusual or important event that could result in a significant environmental impact causally related to station operation" and specifically lists as an example of this "an unusual occurrence of any species protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973". The EPP requires a phone call within 24 hours with a written follow-up within 30 days.

The identification of a green sea turtle at the DCPP circulating water intake structure on January 10, 1997, at approximately 1000 PST, was reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service at 1335 PST (within the required 24-hour reporting period). A marine turtle stranding report was sent to the Wildlife Biologist at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Long Beach, California. In addition, at approximately 1800 PST, a telephone notification was made to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in accordance with the DCPP EPP.

PG&E biologists survey the bar racks daily for accumulated debris. On January 10, 1997, at approximately 1000 PST, biologists observed a turtle quietly resting behind the seawall of the Unit 1, number 2 bar rack. PG&E SCUBA divers, dove under the curtain wall and gently surrounded the turtle with a large kelp net. Mechanical maintenance personnel lifted the turtle to the intake deck by using a mobile crane. Biologists took appropriate measurements and photographs. The turtle was identified as a female green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The turtle weighed about 50 pounds and had a shell length of 85 centimeters. Minor abrasions and chafing were noted on the front right flipper. Although raw looking, the biologists noted no bleeding. The turtle was transported by boat 1/4 mile outside the DCPP intake cove and released. Following release, the turtle swam quickly away from the boat in a southerly direction.

This is the second occurrence of a green sea turtle in the DCPP intake area. Previously, on April 27, 1994, a slightly smaller female green sea turtle was retrieved from the intake area and released. The previous turtle reported was also a female, but is not believed to be the same individual. The April 27, 1994, occurrence was reported as a 4-hour non-emergency report under 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(vi) as a potential newsworthy event. After the January 10, 1997, second occurrence of a green sea turtle in the DCPP intake area, PG&E determined that these occurrences are more appropriately reported under the reporting criteria of the EPP.



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