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50-323 Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 2, Pacific Ga 05000323
AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
GWYNN, T.P. Region 4 (Post 820201)
RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
RUEGER, G.M. Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

SUBJECT: Forwards insp repts 50-275/97-14 & 50-323/97-14 on 970804-22. Two apparent violations identified & being considered for escalated EA. Predecisional enforcement conference scheduled for 970922.

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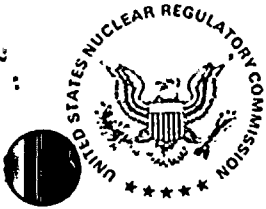
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

SEP - 8 1997

EA 97-369

Gregory M. Rueger, Senior Vice President
and General Manager
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Nuclear Power Generation, B14A
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P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT 50-275/97-14; 50-323/97-14

Dear Mr. Rueger:

An NRC special inspection was conducted August 4-22, 1997, at your Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection. This inspection was conducted following identification of issues involving the maintenance of auxiliary saltwater pump vault drain line check valves.

Based on the results of this inspection, two apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The first apparent violation involves the failure to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," (Maintenance Rule). 10 CFR 50.65 requires that the performance or condition of structures, systems, or components (SSCs) be monitored against licensee established goals or that the licensee demonstrate effective controls through preventive maintenance such that SSCs are capable of fulfilling their intended functions. In particular, the circumstances at the Diablo Canyon facility involved numerous instances in which your staff failed to properly evaluate and take appropriate corrective actions after finding the auxiliary saltwater pump vault drain line check valves were clogged with debris, a condition that rendered the valves incapable of performing their design function. The second apparent violation involves multiple examples of the failure to follow plant procedures that require problems be documented on an action request when they could render SSCs unacceptable or indeterminate if corrective action is not taken. A Notice of Violation is not presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.



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PDR ADDCK 05000275
Q PDR



A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for September 22, 1997. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has made a final determination that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address: (1) why the failed inspections were not properly documented and evaluated and what implications this has for other equipment within the scope of the Maintenance Rule; and (2) during periods when maintenance was performed on the auxiliary saltwater pump vault drain check valves, whether or not other safety-related equipment was also removed from service, and the reportability of these events.

The NRC considers this to be a moderately risk significant event based on the event duration and the potential common cause failure of the auxiliary saltwater systems for Units 1 and 2. The NRC has reviewed the risk assessment that was performed by your staff and agrees with the overall conclusions. In considering the operator mitigating actions, we request that you address in the predecisional enforcement conference the basis for the specified flow rate of the backup fire water cooling system that supplies the centrifugal charging pumps in the event that component cooling water is lost.

In addition, the conference is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: (1) the severity of the violation, (2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and (3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. This conference will be open to public observation.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Projects



Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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Docket Nos.: 50-275

50-323

License Nos.: DPR-80

DPR-82

Enclosure:

NRC Inspection Report

50-275/97-14; 50-323/97-14

cc w/enclosure:

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E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
 E-Mail report to T. Hiltz (TGH)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
 E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
 E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

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