February 5, 1998

Mr. Gregory M. Rueger, Schior Vice President and General Manager Pacific Gas and Electric Company Nuclear Power Generation N9B P. O. Box 770000 San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION FOR MODIFICATION OF THE SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POST ACCIDENT SAMPLING SYSTEM FOR DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M99151 AND M99152)

Dear Mr. Rueger:

By letter dated March 27, 1997, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted a request to modify the sampling requirements for the post-accident sampling system (PASS) in Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. PG&E requested removal of the requirements for sampling for dissolved oxygen in the reactor coolant and for hydrogen and oxygen in the containment atmosphere. PG&E justified their request by indicating that the specifications in Item II.B.3 of NUREG-0737, "Clarification of TMI Action Plan Requirements," do not require measuring oxygen either in the reactor coolant or in the containment atmosphere. Measurement of dissolved oxygen is only recommended in order to gain additional information. Although NUREG-0737 specifies determination of hydrogen concentration in the containment atmosphere, this information can be obtained by the safety grade instrumentation required by Item II.F.1 of NUREG-0737, and PASS does not need to have this capability. The NRC has reviewed the licensee's justifications for the proposed PASS modifications and find them acceptable. The staff's safety evaluation is enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1313.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Steven D. Bloom, Project Manager Project Directorate IV-2 Division of Reactor Projects III/IV Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-275 and 50-323

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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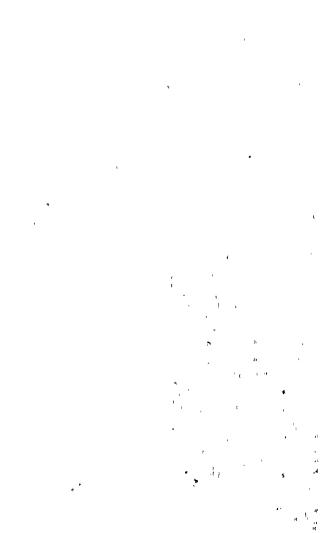
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Mr. Gregory M. Rueger

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cc w/encl: NRC Resident Inspector Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission P. O. Box 369 Avila Beach, California 93424

Dr. Richard Ferguson, Energy Chair Sierra Club California 1100 11th Street, Suite 311 Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Nancy Culver San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace P. O. Box 164 Pismo Beach, California 93448

Chairman San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors Room 370 County Government Center San Luis Obispo, California 93408

Mr. Truman Burns Mr. Robert Kinosian California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness, Room 4102 San Francisco, California 94102

Mr. Steve Hsu Radiologic Health Branch State Department of Health Services Post Office Box 942732 Sacramento, California 94232

Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee ATTN: Robert R. Wellington, Esq. Legal Counsel 857 Cass Street, Suite D Monterey, California 93940 February 5, 1998

Regional Administrator, Region IV U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Harris Tower & Pavillion 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400 Arlington, Texas 76011-8064

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