



SEP 9 1980



Ms. Mary Jane Schaffer 756 Broad San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Dear Ms. Schaffer:

Your April 22, 1980 letter to President Carter regarding the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant has been referred to me for reply.

Your letter expresses a concern over the potential radiological risks of the Diablo Canyon facility.

Except for matters arising from lessons learned from the Three Mile Island Unit 2 accident, the NRC had previously evaluated plant design with respect to radiological risks associated with potential accidents at the Diablo Canyon facility. This evaluation is contained in our October 1974 Safety Evaluation and nine supplements, No. 9 having been published in June 1979.

Let me assure you that the NRC has reacted positively to improve the safety of all nuclear power plants in operation and under construction based on the lessons learned from the Three Mile Island accident.

Based on the findings of the President's Commission on the accident (the Kemeny Commission), the recommendations of the Special Inquiry Group directed by Mitchell Rogovin, recommendations developed by internal NRC special task forces, and recommendations from other sources including the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, a comprehensive NRC Action Plan Developed as a result of the TMI-2 accident, NUREG-0660, was prepared and published in May 1980.

Consistent with Commission guidance, the NRC staff is requiring all applicants for new operating licenses to modify the design and operation of their nuclear plants to conform to TMI-related requirements. NUREG-0694, published June 1980, identifies these requirements and provides a schedule by which they must be implemented.

We have re-examined the Diablo Canyon facility for conformance to the NUREG-0694 requirements as they apply to fuel loading and low power testing and on August 6, 1980, issued our Safety Evaluation on these matters. Before the NRC staff can issue a license to load fuel and conduct low power (below 5%) tests, all of these requirements must be met, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for Diablo Canyon must rule favorably, and the NRC Commission itself will review the record.

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A copy of all of the above cited documents can be found in the Local Public Document Room (LPDR) maintained for Diablo Canyon. This LODR is located at the California Polytechnic State University Library, Documents and Maps Department, San Luis Obispo, California 93407. Based on the above, I believe your concerns for radiological safety are being adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

A. Schwencer, Acting Chief Licensing Branch #3 Division of Licensing

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

5/23

MEMORANDUM:

The attached letter(s) addressed to the President is referred to your office for suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling at the earliest opportunity. Should you receive mail that has been misdirected, please forward to the appropriate agency. I would also appreciate knowing when you are forwarding such mail. My phone number is 456-2717.

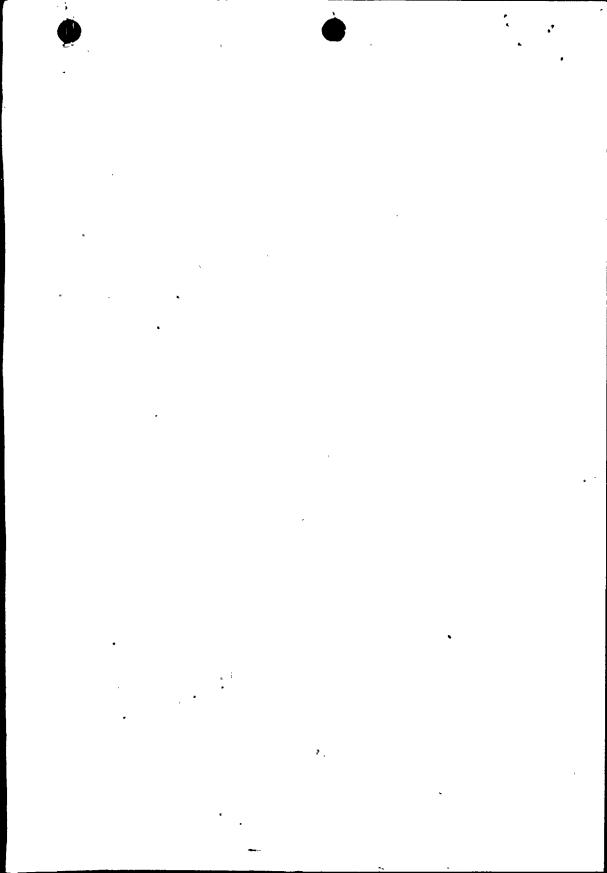
Thank you.

Mary Martha Seal

Director

Correspondence Agency Liaison

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NRC Son Lives Obispo, Ga. 93401 April 22, 1980

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