

CEL Schumann
@ Dr. Buckley

3315 Turnbridge Drive,
Sacramento, Calif. 95823,
June 16, 1980.

Mr. Harold R. Denton,
Director,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Comm.,
Washington, D.C. 20555.

Dear Mr. Denton,

We have had some pretty good earthquake shocks in California during the past two weeks and PG&E's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plants demonstrated that they were able to withstand this kind of nature with no trouble at all. The consumers of PG&E power suffered shocks that they really felt---in the pocketbook. Their power bills hurt them more than the earthquakes and after shocks.

I am sending you two facimilies of the PG&E Progress, a magazine of informative nature put out by the utility for more than a three quarter of a century---mailed out monthly with the utility's bills. The first one of Nov. 1979 showing how special buttresses protect Diablo Canyon's turbine-generator building against earthquakes---and how it did work recently---and the second mailed out on June 2, 1980, starting off with the declaration "Your PG&E bills this summer may startle you."

Enclosed also is a story in the Sacramento Bee of June 14, 1980 with the headline reading "Irate Users Bombard PG&E With Complaints on Bills."

All this is caused by your body dragging its feet in giving the OK to Diablo One and Two to begin operating and thus cutting costs to the PG&E ratepayers of around two to five millions of dollars per day. No one has to tell you that nuclear power is the cheapest kind of power you can produce and knowing PG&E as I do (I worked for them 24 years before becoming a General Building Contractor) they are one outfit that will be careful and you'll never have a Three Mile Island incident with them.

PG&E has put over Two Billions into this plant---has a full operating crew trained and ready to operate the plant, plus all the maintenance people---and the plant personnel is drawing full salaries every single day of the month. Thus, this plant, fully permitted by Federal and State to be built, is killing the Company and its Consumers by not being put into service by "boondoggling." The damn thing is safe and ready to roll so why not cut out the snafu and let it go. Now that you have nuclear engineers at each "nuke" plant in the country the plant can be shut down quickly if anything not "Kosher" is discovered.

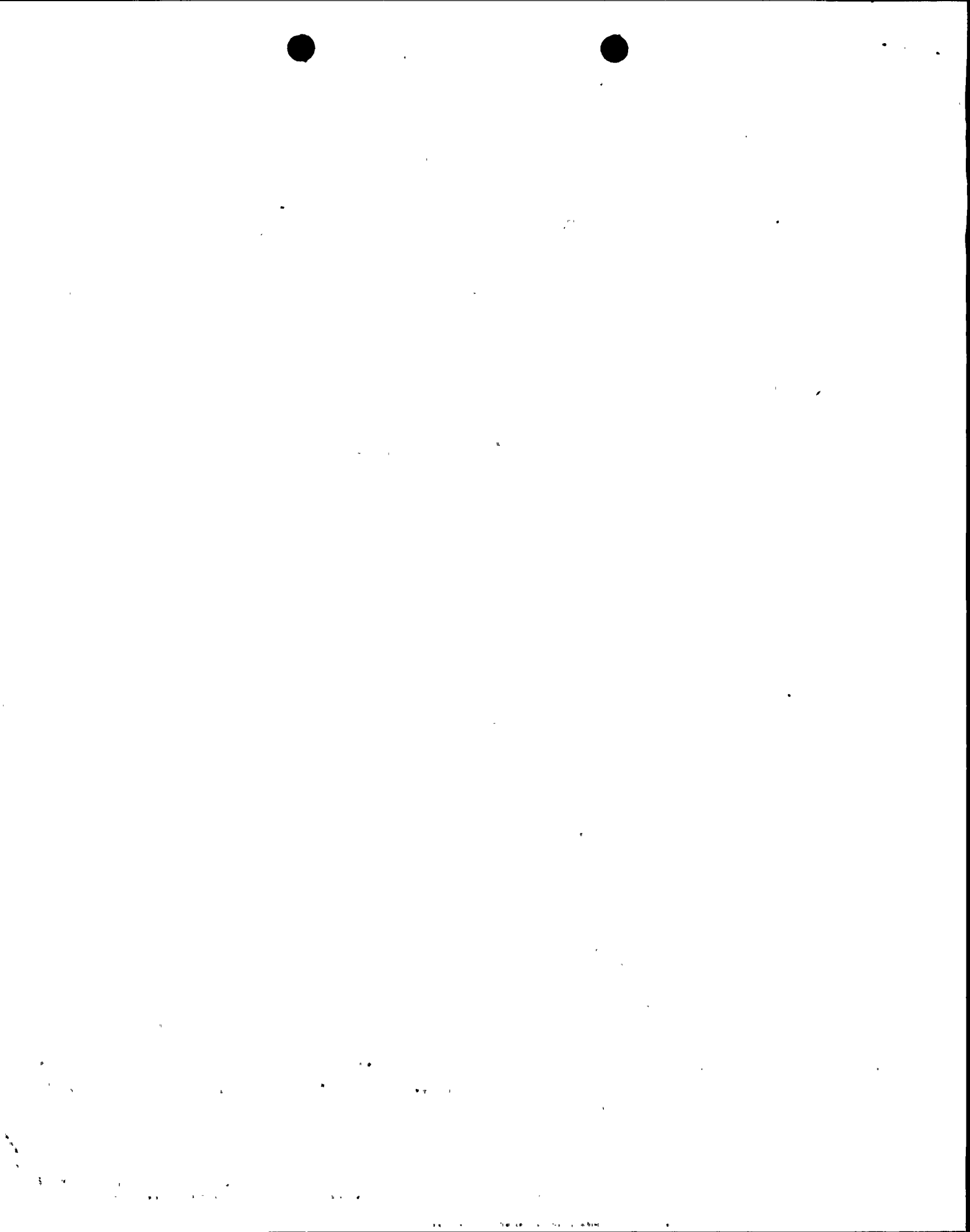
Every day the plant is not working, millions of gallons of oil are wasted and our balance of payments suffers. The environmental "nuts" will never be satisfied---but they are the very ones that would howl like hell if brownouts and blackouts occurred. Thousands of new home, plants and commercial buildings have been built and they all take power. So does California's farms for irrigating purposes.

You are a level headed man, Mr. Denton, so let's get this show on the road. PG&E was so strapped for funds in the fourth quarter of 1979 that Common stockholders received a "dividend" which was really a return of their capital investment and not a dividend at all. With all the thousands of Cubans, Southeast Asians and illegal Mexican immigrants coming into California this year, the taxpayers, who are paying the costs of these unwanted guests need help, your help, in at least lowering their power bills by putting Diablo One and Two on the line.

Yours,

Harry H. Wrinkle
Harry H. Wrinkle

8011210726



Rate increase reasons
and effects—page 7

PG&E Progress

Published monthly by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Not printed at customers' expense.
JUNE 1980

Gas, electric rates up; electric supply low

Good reasons to go easy on energy

YOUR PG&E bills this summer may startle you.

When you compare them with previous bills, you may find that higher PG&E rates, reflecting increased costs due for the most part to OPEC oil price hikes, have given the latest electric bills an unexpected jolt.

People who heat their swimming pools and hot tubs with natural gas can expect much bigger bills, too. The new rate structures set up by the California Public Utilities Commission make it increasingly expensive to use larger amounts of gas and electricity. (See story on page 7.)

The California Public Utilities Commission has ordered residential natural gas rates of almost 67 cents a therm for summer usage that exceeds 52 therms. Last summer the rate was about 30 cents for usage above 52 therms and about 37 cents for usage above 78 therms.

The higher rate is intended to discourage the use of gas for swimming pool heaters.

In addition, supplies of electricity are barely adequate for the summer. (See page 2.)

Conservation makes sense

For these reasons it makes even more sense these days to conserve energy.

With air conditioning, if you set the thermostat at 78 degrees instead of 72 degrees, you'll cut your use of electricity by as much as 20 percent. Try fans or evaporative coolers to shoulder some of the cooling load; they use less electricity than air conditioners.

To help cool the house naturally, open the windows at night when it's cool, then close doors and windows early in the morning to retain the coolness and draw shades or drapes to shield the sun.

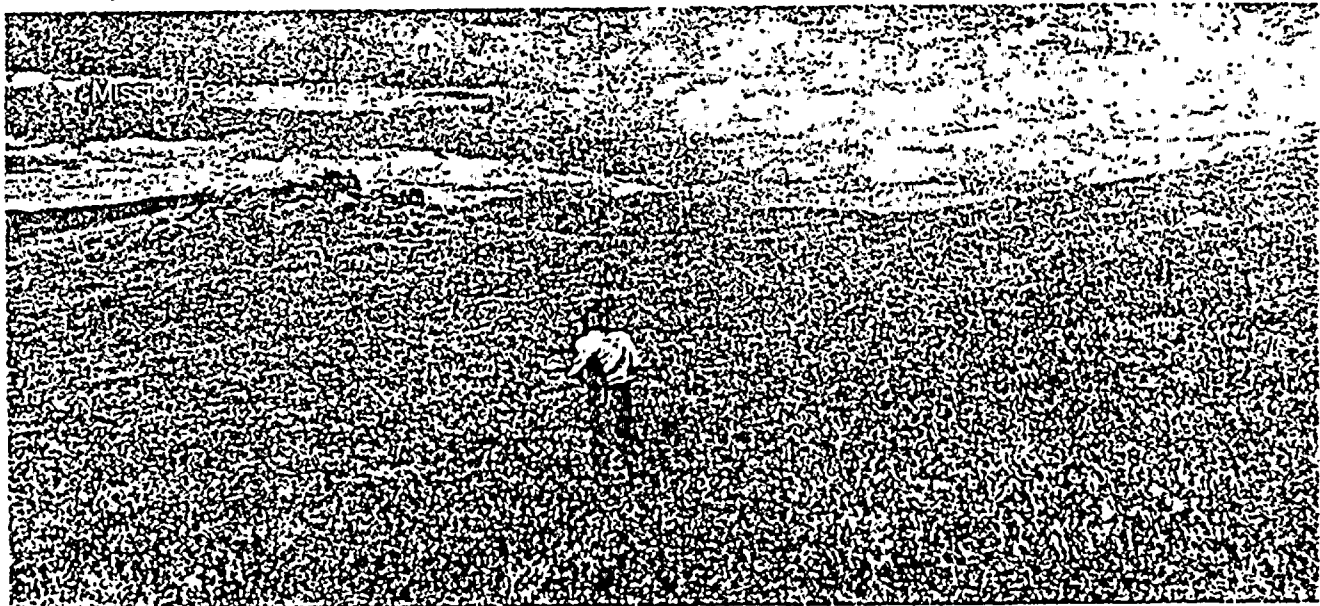
To help stretch electric supplies, reduce the use of air conditioning and other appliances as much as possible and avoid entirely the use of swimming pool filters and pool sweeps from noon to 6 p.m., the hours of peak summer electric use.

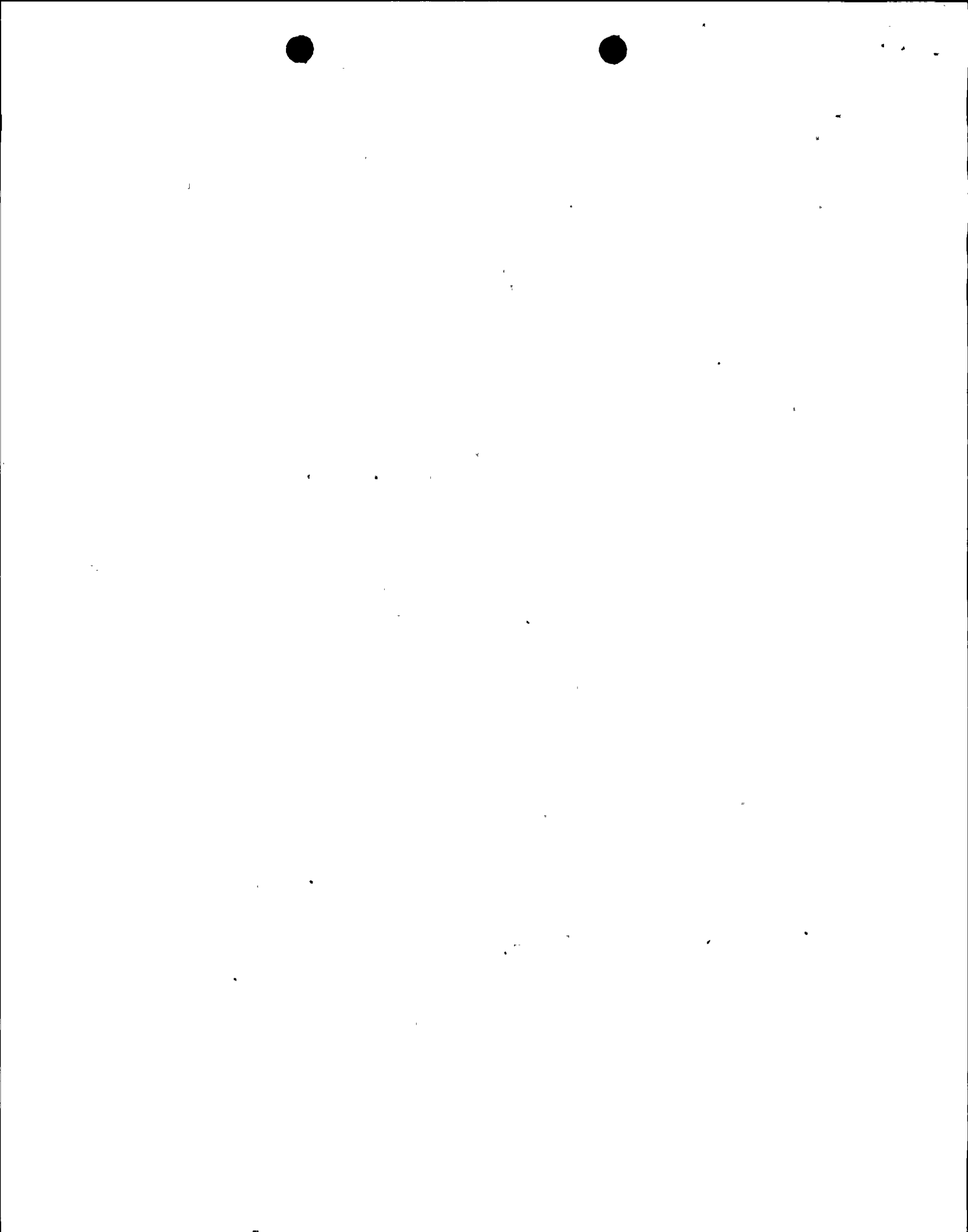
Attic insulation and weatherstripping help keep the house cool in summer, besides making it easier to heat in the winter. Attic vents should be kept clear so natural air circulation will cool things off.

Install awnings over windows or install outside bronze, aluminum or plastic sun screening material, set off one to two inches from the south and west windows. Screening devices louvered at an angle to block the sun's rays are also on the market.

If you have a second refrigerator in the garage, seriously consider removing the contents and unplugging it.

Getting away from it all in the East Bay (page 4)





Irate Users Bombard PG&E With Complaints On Bills

By Cheryl Clark
Bee Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Heavy mailbags and ringing telephones have state Public Utilities Commission workers reeling this week as thousands of angry Northern Californians complained about their May PG&E bills.

In the last 12 months, average residential gas and electric bills have risen 71 percent and 58 percent respectively in Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s 9 million population service area. Bills for May that arrived in mailboxes two weeks ago reflected the most recent rate increases approved by the PUC, cooler than normal May temperatures and a new summer lifeline rate schedule.

Company spokesman Fritz Draeger said the utility received 8,600 "inquiries" during the week of June 2-6. The week before the utility reported 6,500

calls. Normally, PG&E receives about 2,000 inquiries a week, said utility spokeswoman Roberta Palm.

The PUC also fielded record amounts of the public's invectives, said Marco Valenti, whose PUC consumer affairs office received between 30 and 50 letters and about 100 calls every day in the last two weeks.

Irate customers have sent charts and graphs, scrawled notes and neatly typed letters, he said, but they all say essentially the same thing.

"Inflation doesn't hurt government, corporations or the like — they just find another loophole and stick it to the average citizen," wrote one customer.

"I hope you find time to do some regulating for the average consumer instead of for the utility," said another customer, who claimed to suffer from a \$70.10

See COMPLAINTS, Back Page, A12

Complaints

Continued From Page A1
increase over his April bill.

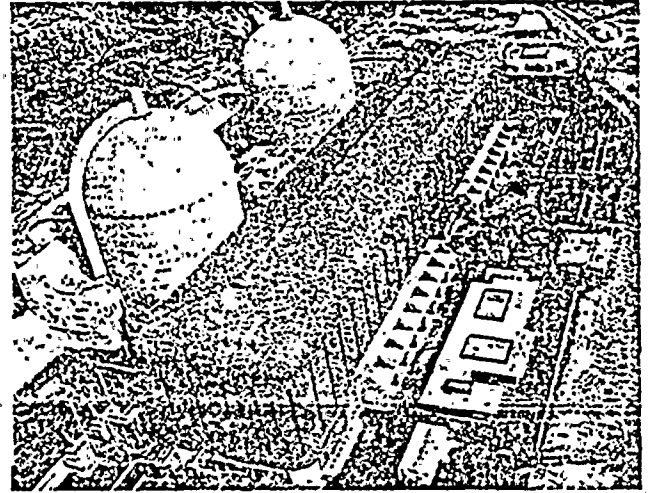
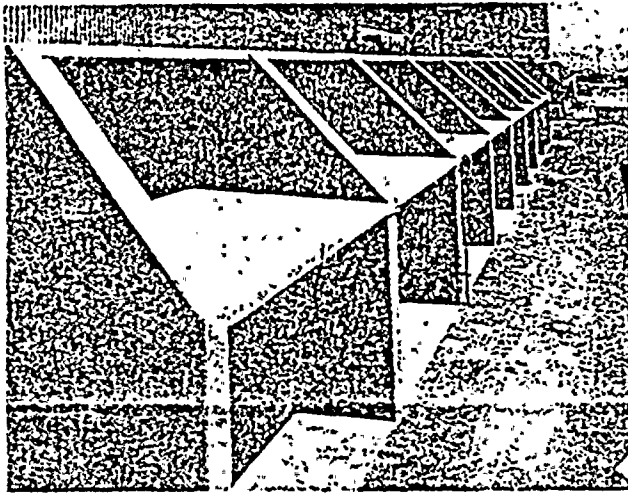
People who live in relatively constant temperatures, particularly on the coast, feel May's increases even more because of a more expensive summer rate structure, PUC legal adviser Marty Mattessaid.

But there are some recourses and some possible solutions, he added. PUC is considering reworking the lifeline rate structure for customers living along the coast so that temperature-constant areas receive more equal bills year-round.

There also are recourses for people who have trouble paying. PG&E's Palm said customers can ask PG&E to set up terms of a payment schedule.

Michael Micciche of the state Office of Economic Opportunity said low-income utility customers can ask his office about federal money available to help pay rising energy bills. Telephone inquiries can be made at 916-322-2940.





AERIAL views show buttresses that protect the turbine-generator building.

Diablo Canyon plant earthquake-safe, says federal board after exhaustive study

THE DIABLO CANYON Nuclear Power Plant, nearly completed on its coastal site near San Luis Obispo, can safely withstand an earthquake of 7.5 magnitude on the Hosgri Fault, which lies about three miles offshore—and that is an overly cautious estimate of the strongest earthquake that could reasonably be expected at the site.

This was the recent finding of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), an arm of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). It came after exhaustive review of the plant's seismic design which the NRC staff called "the most extensive we have ever undertaken."

In two other favorable rulings the ASLB:

- Found that the plant's security plan complies with all applicable regulations.
- Determined that aircraft operations in the plant's vicinity do not present undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

There now remain only a few issues which the ASLB must resolve prior to submitting its recommendation to the NRC concerning an operating license. The board is expected to address the remaining issues as soon as the NRC staff issues its report concerning any improvements required at Diablo Canyon as a result of its evaluation of the Three Mile Island accident.

The Diablo Canyon plant has two units, each of

approximately 1.1-million kilowatt capacity. Unit 1 is essentially complete. Together with Unit 2, which would go into operation about eight months after the first unit, it will offset the need to burn 20 million barrels per year of costly imported low-sulfur oil. The two units will add almost 20 percent to PG&E's present total generating capacity, helping provide the power to meet future needs and avoid possible shortages in the 1980s.

After previously resolving environmental and other issues, the ASLB then dealt with the adequacy of the Diablo Canyon plant's seismic design, with respect to the Hosgri Fault which lies about three miles offshore. The decision followed an extended period of technical review, including extensive expert testimony, and 33 days of public hearings on all issues brought before the board by those opposed to the plant.

Hearings were conducted with formal procedures like those used in a courtroom, with all evidence presented under oath by qualified expert witnesses, who could be cross-examined.

The board said it "concludes that a 7.5 magnitude earthquake is a very conservative value," and went on to state its finding that the key structures, systems and components at Diablo Canyon "will be adequate to assure (a) the integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, and (b) the capability to shut down the reactor and maintain it in a safe condition."

