

DOCKET NUMBER 50-275/323
PROD. & UTIL. FAC.

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Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

1/20/81

Mr. Joseph Hendrie, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 "H" Street N. W.
Washington D. C. 20555

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR ENERGY &
DIABLO LICENSING

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

This letter is to urge you not to permit the licensing of the Diablo nuclear plant in San Luis Obispo which is located 2-1/2 miles from an active earthquake fault that is estimated can produce a 7.5 point earthquake.

The siting of this plant which was done without prior geological assessment of the area was nevertheless decided upon and considerable money spent in construction before the subsequent discovery of the fault. This kind of poor planning is typical of the irresponsible self-serving attitudes that utilities and the whole nuclear industry seem to follow without any concern for the safety and the well-being of the population or their progeny.

Upon closely following every aspect of the debate on whether this plant should be licensed, we have come accross so much negative information regarding nuclear reactors in general, that in just a few months time, aided further with the help of the TMI disaster, our attitudes and that of our family and numerous friends has turned strongly anti-nuclear.

You who are responsible seem to have succumbed to the erroneous notion that SCIENCE IS GOD (or is it money?), that scientific technology is so absolute that it can totally control every intricacy and parameter of the environment. There is no fail-safe technology. TMI, Brown's Ferry, the 1958 waste site explosion in Kyshtym, Russia, to name a few dramatically illustrate the difference between the "real world" of operating nukes opposed to the illusory invulnerability of scientific plans and computer models. The industry and the NRC confirmed that 2300 plant "incidents" occured last year but as usual soft-pedaled the idea that any of them might be related to safety.

There are so many absurdities regarding the whole subject of nuclear weapons, wastes and reactors that one cannot help fear that the decision makers involved in this industry are badly in need of mental health care - certainly they are out of touch with reality.

Here are the absurdities:

- An industry whose simple basic purpose is to boil water for turbines is so complex as to be incomprehensible to many who work in it.

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- Wastes so dangerous that armed guards will be required to accompany them through towns of 100,000 or more. Are the people in small towns to be the sacrificial lambs? With proper planning, radioactive elements, especially plutonium, could be released in the atmosphere by terrorists killing millions. According to the NRC in Walnut Creek, Diablo will churn out 1700 pounds of waste plutonium each year. The latest consideration of sending the wastes to outer space is not only ludicrous, it could hardly be cost effective!

It is absurd that we should be saddled with waste as toxic as plutonium for the next half a million years waiting for it to detoxify. Even if we had unbreakable, corrosion resistant containers that would last that long, "any storage site on earth would have to be kept under constant surveillance by incorruptible guards, administered by moral politicians living in a stable, warless society, and left undisturbed by earthquakes, natural disasters, or other acts of God for no less than half a million years - a tall order which science cannot fill." Helen Caldicott

- An industry so dangerous that even private insurers refuse to cover it. The Price Anderson act which allows only \$560 million coverage per reactor accident is as good as paying nothing, perhaps pennies on the dollar if that much.
- An industry that uses "fresh bodies" to do its dirty work. Several years ago at Indian Point 1 in New York, seventeen hundred certified welders were called in to fix a highly radioactive pipe. You know the reason. Because each welder could not work more than a minute or two before he had received his "allowable" radioactive limit. The job caused a shutdown of 6 months. Hardly an economical way of doing business.

An industry that uses "fresh bodies" is not only absurd, it's immoral since many workers, especially transient laborers go to another plant and get another radiation dose without realizing the hazards. Apparently no one tells them - or if they do, the workers don't fully comprehend the consequences.

- An industry which emits daily radioactive dust "within federal standards" to rain upon the land, water sources, food chain, people's bodies. How many pounds of radioactive dust a year would Diablo put into the air under optimum working conditions - under actual working conditions? The industry doesn't like to discuss the fact that Strontium 90 and more than a dozen radioactive compounds would enter the atmosphere daily nor do they



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like to discuss medical findings of increasing cases of cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, birth defects in people who live near nuclear plants.

This absurd industry gives us only 3% of our energy, but is shut down 40 - 50% of the time due to malfunctions. Yet we still hear arguments about how safe, cheap and clean it is. It's certainly not safe or clean, history tells us that. It can't be cheap when it's shut down half the time and has to pay union scale to 1700 welders for a job that could be done in no time if it weren't so hazardous. It has cost PG&E 2.4 billion dollars so far in the construction of Diablo partly because it had to strengthen it due to the company's belated acknowledgment of the seismic dangers. TMI may go bankrupt because of that disaster. And the potential for an apocalyptic disaster is always there.

We urge you to reconsider the licensing of Diablo - or any other nuclear plant for that matter. But Diablo is especially at risk because of its proximity to an active earthquake fault. No more NRC and PG&E white-washes please! Give your citizens who pay their taxes a break! Convert Diablo to biomass, solar or coal - coal only if scrubbers and proper pollution safeguards are used.

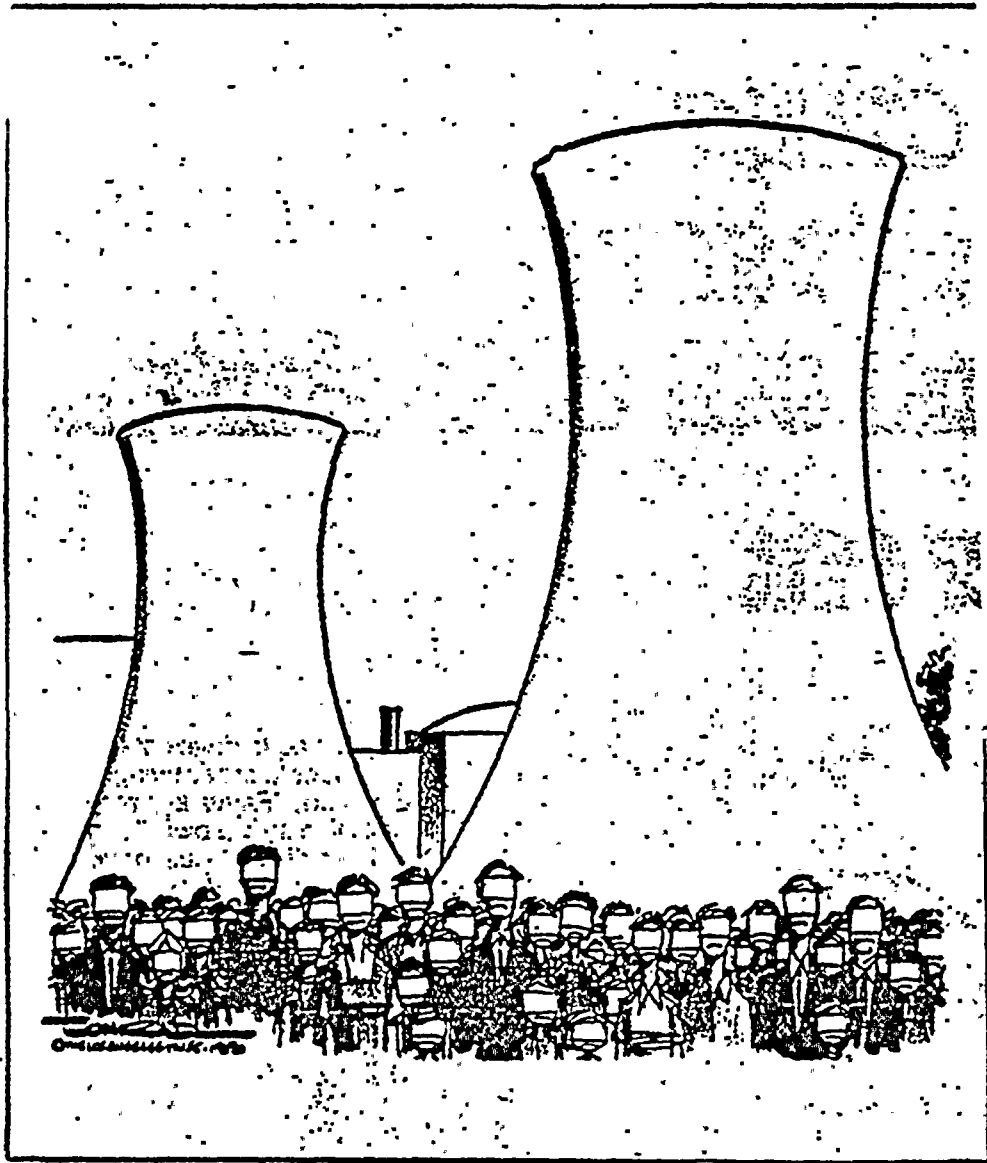
Sincerely,

Mary C. Scott, C.T. Scott

Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Scott

cc: Ronald Reagan, President
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Douglas Castle, Administrator Environmental Protection Agency
Alan Cranston, Senator
S. I. Hayakawa, Senator
Jerry Brown, Governor, State of California
Director, Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco
Director, Energy Resources Conservation and Development
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY)

(Diablo Canyon, Units 1 and 2))
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Docket No. (s) 50-2750L
50-3230L

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document(s) upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Office of the Secretary of the Commission in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of Section 2.712 of 10 CFR Part 2 - Rules of Practice, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Rules and Regulations.

Dated at Washington, D.C. this

30th day of Jan 1981.

Samuel F. Sawring
Office of the Secretary of the Commission



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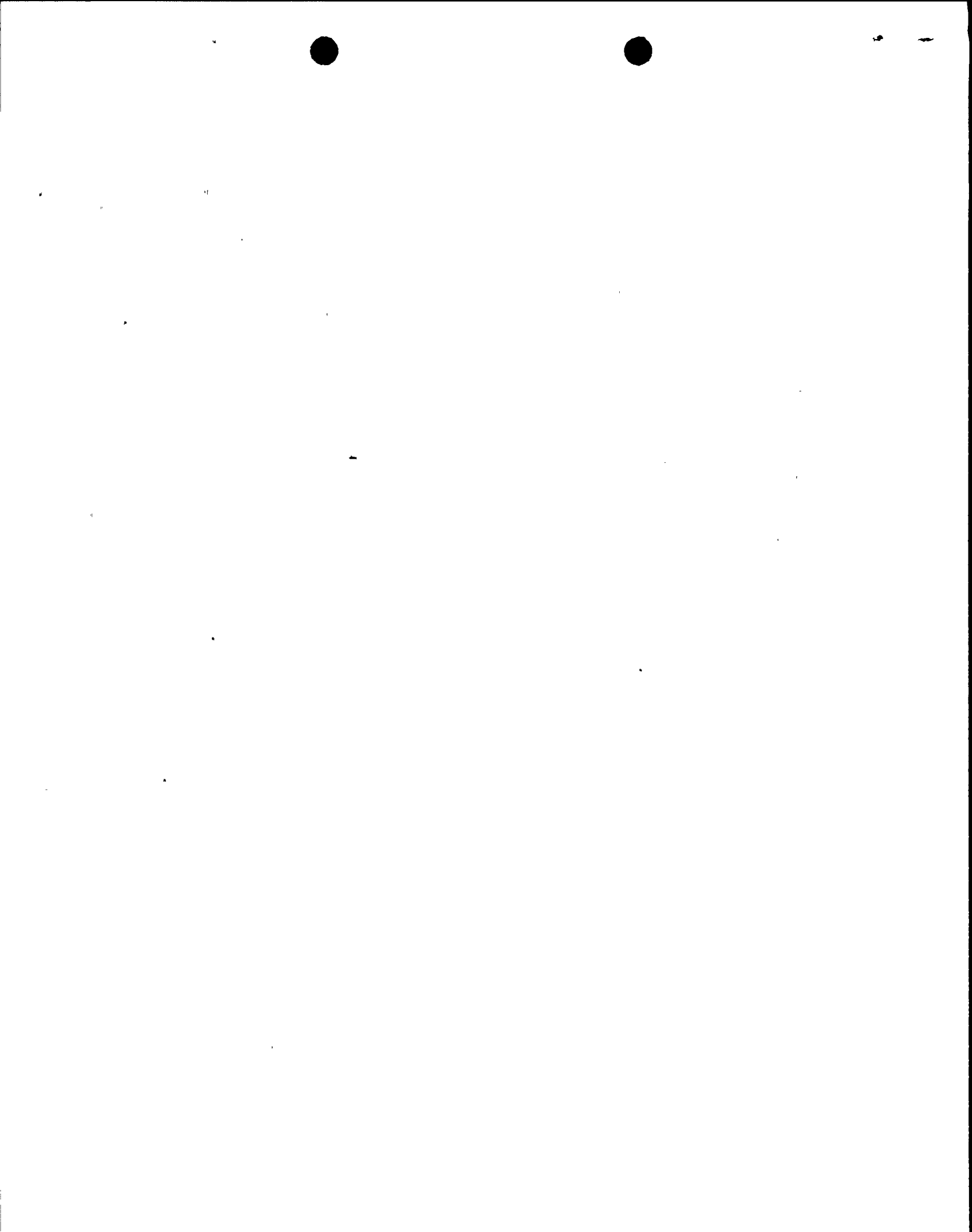
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