

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

124 SPEAR SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105

415 495-4770

June 6, 1979

The Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write in response to a letter dated May 29, 1979 from R. H. Beaton, General Electric Company (GE) to you, indicating GE's displeasure that NRC staff has not completed its safety evaluation report on the General Electric Test Reactor (GETR). Friends of the Earth is an intervenor in the GETR proceedings (NRC Docket Nos. 50-70, 70-754).

In light of GE's behavior to date in this case, GE's complaints are outrageous. GE refused for some time to dig the trenches suggested by the NRC and United States Geological Survey (USGS) geologists studying the GETR site. GE instead produced a geologic report on the GETR which claimed that the earthquake fault near which the GETR sits does not exist. This report was thoroughly discredited by USGS; a news account is attached for your information.

The delayed trenching confirmed the existence of the fault, indeed, some geologists at the trenches suggested the earthquake fault features revealed in the trenches were "classic", and should be photographed and included in geology textbooks. The trenches also uncovered a second earthquake fault near the GETR. The difficulty of writing the safety evaluation report, which must be in effect a detailed prediction of the damage done to the GETR by a major earthquake, is not hard to understand in light of the enormous complexity of the seismic situation revealed by the trenches.

We note also that during the course of the GETR case, it was publicly revealed that GE had produced groundwater radioactivity readings near the GETR only from points upstream from where GE dumps its radioactive waste water. When the downstream groundwater was checked by James Levine of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, samples were found to be contaminated with radioactive tritium far above the federal drinking water standard of 20,000 picocuries per liter.

In light of these disclosures, NRC staff may be treating all of GE's information about the GETR, correctly, as hopelessly unreliable. This may account for the difficulty of preparing the safety evaluation report.

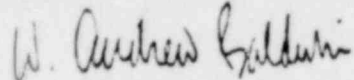
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Page 2

The Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

We trust, Mr. Chairman, that you will not pressure the NRC staff, as suggested by GE, to rush to judgment about the GETR. The futures of many thousands of people in the San Francisco Bay Area could be compromised by such an unconsidered NRC staff report.

Respectfully,



W. Andrew Baldwin
Legal Director

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WAB:ah

FROM: A. Andrew Baldwin Friends of the Earth		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO. 06534	
TO: Chairman Henrie		COMPL DEADLINE		6/20/79		DATE OF DOCUMENT	
DESCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		ACKNOWLEDGMENT				6/15/79	
Requests the Commission not to pressure staff, as suggested by GE, into rushing completion of an EIS for QETR		INTERIM REPLY				PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF	
CLASSIFIED DATA		FINAL REPLY		5/11/79		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN	
DOCUMENT COPY NO.		FILE LOCATION		7/1-9		<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
NUMBER OF PAGES		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS		Ref EDO-0595 due to copy 6/15/79		OTHER:	
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.		Need Commission Paper & Copy letter		SECY 79-1721			
ASSIGNED TO:		DATE		INFORMATION ROUTING		LEGAL REVIEW	
B. Gramer		6/14/79		Jossick Rena Ment PSS Bryl		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY	
				muller Muller		NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:	
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

POOR ORIGINAL

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No. 79-1721

Logging Date 6/11/79

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner _____ Date _____
 Exec. Dir./Oper. Gen. Counsel
 Cong. Liaison Solicitor
 Public Affairs Secretary

Incoming: W. Andrew Baldwin, Legal Director
From: Friends of the Earth
San Francisco, Ca.
To: Chairman Hendrie Date 6/6/79
Subject: Requests Commission not to pressure staff
into rushing completion of an EIS for El Vallecitos
reactor

Prepare reply for signature of:

Chairman Date due Comm: 28 June 20

Commissioner _____
 EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
 Signature block omitted

Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply* See SECY Ticket # 79-1687
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

Remarks: Cpys to: RF

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date... 6/12/79
11:30

For the Commission: Combs

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility

NRC-62

ACTION SLIP

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