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Dr. William Kerr
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Dear Bill:

The GETR data has been read and reread and rethought and I come up with a feeling that the USGS and the NRC Staff are engaged in series of studies based on the premise that the GETR should be shut down! Permanently! Even, if evidence is lacking for such, the most dangerous condition is assumed as being in existence. No where is any mention made of methods or means or ways of offsetting or countering the effects of undesirable conditions, real or assumed, in the foundation or environment of the GETR. To one who has spent his life in engineering geology where undesirable conditions were common and remedying them or adjusting to them was the normal course of action, I find this lack of effort to make things go, just inexcusable.

Let us be absolutely clear on this point--- I desire an absolutely safe project -- safe within the capability of good engineering and good science. I am not sure that the latter is being shown in the SER.

I accept the Verona Fault as real and as described and as exposed in the B1 /B3 trench. I do not feel any where near as sure about the shear zone in the B2 trench -- it may be a landslide shear. The shear in the H trench may be either a fault or a landslide shear. And at this point I take difference with the SER on the occurrence of shears on faults coming in contact with the GETR either on its foundation bottom or its embedded sides. The construction photos of the walls of the foundation excavation did not show readily recognizable faults. The assumption that new shears will develop in the immediate presence of the Verona shear seems far fetched. But that is what is assumed -- new shears between the B1/B3 and the B2 which would come in contact with the concrete walls and/or floor of the GETR. Then comes the great mathematical attempt to apply a frequency to such occurrence. I think the whole drill is unrealistic and I doubt if it should be the governing effort but I am sure that the Staff and the USGS will hold to such a position with a vigor and tenacity unmatched since the last Mich- OSU game in November.

With these thoughts and beliefs in my mind, I look forward with little enthusiasm to two days of flying and two days and evenings of sitting in meetings on this subject in Dublin, CA. where I doubt if I can remain silent even in the face of the prestigious array of the USGS geologists and geophysicists.

Under these conditions, do you wish me to attend the GETR meeting?

x - Shailer

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P.S. When the Staff and the USGS get thru with the GETR it will be safe but it may never go in operation when the GE Board of Directors get the cost estimate.
cc ACRS