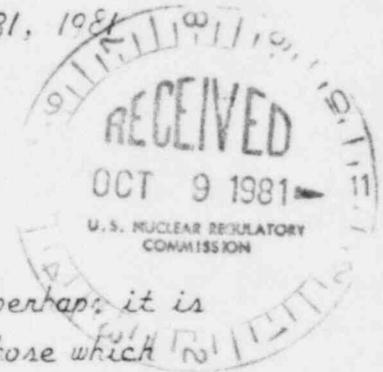


August 31, 1981



Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Gentlemen:

All too often we are beset with the disease "inertia" and perhaps it is almost a last gasp effort at this point to add my feelings to those which have already been sent to you - but, better late than never!

I am writing regarding the Diablo (devil) Canyon Nuclear Power Plant at Avila Beach, California, which is just over the hill from where I reside in the Bay-Oros area of San Luis Obispo County, California. We moved here thirty years ago from the mid-West, choosing San Luis Obispo as a quiet area, mid-way between the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and San Francisco, a wonderful place to raise our then small children, who grew up, attended college here, left and then returned to the area as being the best of places to live.

In the thirty years we have been here, the people of the area have consistently and successfully fought industry from coming into the area, and although our taxes were high as a result, we preferred that to losing our country-like atmosphere, our clear, unpolluted air, the graciousness of small town living.

Quite a number of years back, talk arose of locating a nuclear power plant in our area. At that time, I truly don't believe any of us were schooled in the dangers of nuclear power, nor did many of us realize the near proximity of the canyon in which they proposed construction. I, for one, had I realized, would have taken up arms immediately, as I had on previous occasions regarding the possible influx of industry or of criss-crossing our lovely town of San Luis Obispo with freeways.

Since our children have grown, I, too, have picked up on neglected schooling attending the local colleges toward completing my degree. Within the past two years I have taken both ecology and geology, and through both have gained an even greater appreciation for the fragile and beautiful area in which we live. Studying the coast, the delicate environment, the geological structure, including the network of faults that keep us ever alert to earthquake tremors, I have learned the error of the construction of the nuclear power plant in its location. We know that we have entered a period when we are due for extensive action along the California faults - and, as if the prospects of damage and disaster from the quakes alone were not enough, we are confronted with the possible licensing of a plant that can only add to the devastation, as well as being a continual source of exposure to nuclear activity and waste.

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For a time my daughter kept company with a young man who, like herself, graduated from the local schools and who was employed at a professional level at the Diablo construction site. He was making a fine salary, investing wisely, and was already financially secure, because, as he said, Diablo should never be activated and probably never would be activated, so he felt he would be unemployed before too long and, sensibly, he was safeguarding his future. Why should it not be activated? Because it was too dangerous, virtually sitting atop a fault.

A very close friend of mine recently was returning from Denver, Colorado and in conversing with a gentleman seated next to her on the 'plane discovered that he was a scientist who was coming to work at Diablo. She immediately became interested and asked in what capacity he would be serving? He would be checking the employees to determine the extent of their exposure to <sup>the</sup> radio activity of the nuclear plant. She asked if his family would be moving to the area? He replied that they would be moving to the coast, but to a place over 200 miles north of the area because of the imminent danger. She said that she could hardly be civil to him after he divulged that information.

How does one escape having this monster thrust upon us? We own our homes here, this is the place we have taken pride in and protected from encroaching industry, a place to which people come for surcease of the pressures in cosmopolitan living, the smog and hustle bustle rush of every day city life.

P. G. and E. has run pages of signatures in our local paper of signatures of supposedly eminent scientists and engineers who proclaim the safety and need of Diablo. They have personally gone over the plant, studied its construction, studied the geology of the area? No, they haven't! They are local residents? No, they are not! It is easy to endorse disaster if it is not on one's own doorstep. It is almost as though they have in a subconscious way joined "Murder for Hire".

I realize I am a layman (albeit perhaps a bit more knowledgeable than some) speaking from a layman's point of view, but we are legion! I, too, was on the fence somewhat, not wanting to interfere with educated progress, until I read and weighed the pros and cons of the article "The Promise and Peril of Nuclear Energy" in the April 1979 issue of National Geographic. I presume that those of you who are entrusted with decisions effecting our lives and welfare have read the article? Then how do you dare to sign into licensed activity nuclear facilities, especially one in such a dangerous location as the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant?

Respectfully,

*Nora J. Genthner*

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