



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 10, 1990

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your letter of July 9, 1990, which enclosed a letter from Representatives Barbara Boxer and Leon E. Panetta regarding the seismic safety of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Representatives Boxer and Panetta expressed concern about the nature of the Hosgri fault which lies near the plant, and whether ground motion at the plant caused by an earthquake on the fault could be more severe than currently anticipated.

At the present time, the NRC staff is reviewing a seismic re-evaluation of the plant that the Pacific Gas and Electric Company recently conducted. The NRC staff is thoroughly familiar with the Hosgri fault issues and is evaluating them as part of its review. The NRC review team consists of a number of NRC staff experts in the areas of geology, seismology, engineering, and probabilistic risk assessment. To assist in the review, the NRC has retained consultants from universities, national laboratories, the U.S. Geological Survey, and several consulting firms. The staff review team will consider the recommendations of all of its consultants in reaching a decision regarding the adequacy of the seismic design of Diablo Canyon.

This fall, the NRC will complete its review of the Diablo Canyon seismic re-evaluation program and will document the findings in a Safety Evaluation Report. We will be pleased to send a copy of the report to you and to Representatives Boxer and Panetta when it is issued.

Sincerely,


Forrest J. Remick
Acting Chairman

cc: Representative Barbara Boxer
Representative Leon E. Panetta

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