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CHIEF COUNSEL/STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
of the
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 1990

The Honorable Kenneth M. Carr
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

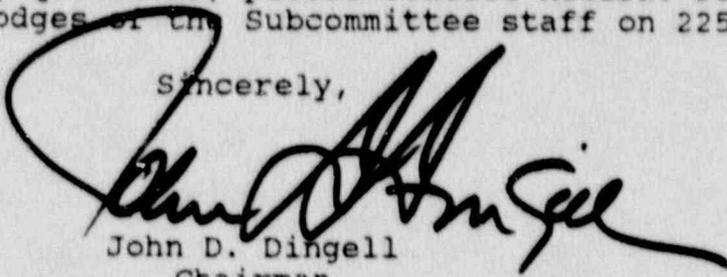
Dear Mr. Carr:

I am forwarding a copy of a letter dated June 1, 1990, that was sent to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations from Representatives Barbara Boxer and Leon E. Panetta. This letter pertains to seismic issues at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant that are apparently being considered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in its ruling on the long-term safety of Diablo Canyon.

It is requested that the NRC consider the concerns raised by Representatives Boxer and Panetta as the NRC's review proceeds. Please advise me of the outcome of your review.

If you have any questions, please contact Messrs. Jeffrey Crater or Jeffrey Hodges of the Subcommittee staff on 225-4441.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations

JDD:des

Enclosure

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LEON E. PANETTA
5TH DISTRICT CALIFORNIA

—CHAIRMAN—
HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE
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FOR THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 1990

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The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations
2323 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to request that the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for the Committee on Energy and Commerce review a matter of great concern to the safety of Californians, the seismic safety of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, owned by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), lies just a few miles from the offshore Hosgri fault. When PG&E was issued a full-power license by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in 1984, the NRC imposed a licensing condition that PG&E develop and implement a Long Term Seismic Program (LTSP) to reevaluate the seismic design bases for the Plant. PG&E's final plan for its LTSP was completed in July of 1988 and is currently under going review by the NRC, the U.S. Geological Survey, and independent consultants contracted by the NRC.

The NRC has requested that the USGS and its independent consultants act as its advisors on the LTSP, as the NRC are not experts in seismology. Although USGS will not have completed its review of the LTSP until mid-summer, many of the USGS scientists reviewing PG&E's report on its LTSP have expressed concerns regarding the accuracy of the reports conclusions relating to the "nature" of the Hosgri fault.

PG&E maintains that the Hosgri fault is a "strike-slip fault," while many USGS scientists feel there is significant evidence indicating that the fault may actually be a "thrust fault." Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is designed to withstand a 7.2 earthquake on the Hosgri fault, assuming the fault is indeed a strike-slip. However, if the fault is determined to be a thrust fault, which is commonly thought to cause more ground motion than a strike-slip fault, USGS scientists believe that in the event of an earthquake the ground motion at the plant could be significantly higher than currently anticipated.

The USGS and NRC's independent consultants are planning on submitting their review of PG&E's LTSP to the NRC in July of this year. At that

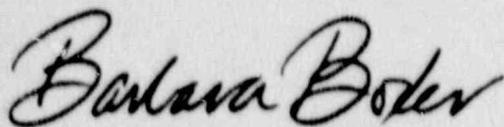
The Honorable John D. Dingell
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time, it is our understanding that the NRC will make a ruling on the long-term safety of the plant, and will determine whether or not restructuring of the plant will be needed to ensure the safety of the plant and the population of the surrounding areas.

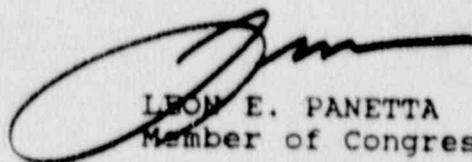
We are extremely concerned by the preliminary findings of the USGS scientists which indicate the Hosgri fault may be significantly more volatile than currently believed. The threat of an earthquake could place the plant and surrounding populations in unacceptable jeopardy. As such, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee review this matter and ensure that every possible precaution is taken to provide for the safety of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The people of the surrounding community deserve no less than the fullest protection under the law.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact us or our staffs. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



BARBARA BOXER
Member of Congress



LEON E. PANETTA
Member of Congress