

Mr. Christopher Enright  
567 12th St. Apt. B  
Arcata, CA 95521

OCT 22 1982

Dear Mr. Enright:

Thank you for your letter dated September 29, 1982, in which you expressed concern related to the need for decommissioning Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit No. 3.

On July 2, 1976, the Humboldt Bay Plant was shutdown for replacement of some of the fuel in the core. By Order dated May 21, 1976, the NRC required that before resuming operation, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the licensee) complete certain activities. The licensee was required to upgrade as necessary, the seismic capability of safety-related equipment (e.g. the reactor coolant pressure boundary) to current requirements, and to resolve more recent seismic concerns having to do with earthquake vulnerability that had arisen since the time an operating license was issued on August 29, 1962.

The licensee has replaced the fuel in the core, undertaken extensive geological investigations, and completed some plant modifications. The future operation of the Humboldt Bay Plant is before a Licensing Board which on February 16, 1982 issued a Memorandum and Order which established a time table for the licensee to decide whether it would resume operation of the plant or decommission it.

If the licensee should request approval for resumed operation of the Humboldt Bay Plant, the NRC would have to be assured that the health and safety of the public is adequately protected before reaching a decision for authorization for operation. While the plant is shutdown the NRC must be satisfied that the health and safety of the public is adequately protected with the plant in the shutdown condition.

Since the time that the Humboldt Bay Plant was shutdown, the standard inspection (surveillance) program for a shutdown reactor has been and continues to be performed by the NRC Regional Office at the Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant. This inspection consists of inspections of design changes and modifications, activity of the Onsite Review Committee, QA program, overall training program, fire prevention and protection, surveillance of equipment during extended shutdown, security and material accountability, radiation protection program, transportation of radioactive materials, and radioactive waste management. Inspections have not revealed any major problems at the plant.

DISTRIBUTION:	ORB#2 Rdg & Ylw TKT File	ACRS-10	Docket File-OR LTR/cpy of TK
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The consequences and types of accidents possible at the Humboldt Bay Plant are greatly diminished because of the present shutdown condition of the plant. Staff studies show that Humboldt Bay fuel has decayed sufficiently that air cooling is adequate to preserve fuel cladding integrity. Therefore, measures to assure core cooling or mitigate loss of coolant consequences are unnecessary. Due to the long period since shutdown, mobile radioactivity has decayed very significantly.

Issues regarding economic impacts on ratepayers of a decision to decommission do not lie within the purview of the NRC, and therefore, cannot be considered by the NRC in requiring decommissioning. However, we can assure you that all safety issues pertinent to an operating reactor will be resolved before the Commission would permit future operation of the Humboldt Bay facility.

With the plant in its present condition the staff considers that the health and safety of the public is adequately protected, and finds no basis to require decommissioning the plant.

I hope this information will be of use to you.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director  
for Operating Reactors  
Division of Licensing

OFFICE	DL:ORB#2	DL:ORB#2	DL:ORB#2	DL:AD:OR		
SURNAME	SNorris	VRooney:pob:MC	DVassallo	GLainas		
DATE	10/21/82	10/21/82	10/21/82	10/21/82		

FROM: <b>Christopher Enright</b>		DATE OF DOCUMENT <b>9/29/82</b>		DATE RECEIVED <b>10/8/82</b>		NO.: <b>NRR-82-408</b>	
		LTR.		MEMO.		REPORT.	
						OTHER:	
TO: <b>H. Denton</b>		ORIG.:		CC:		OTHER:	
		ACTION NECESSARY <input type="checkbox"/>		CONCURRENCE <input type="checkbox"/>		DATE ANSWERED:	
		NO ACTION NECESSARY <input type="checkbox"/>		COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>		BY <b>10/28/82</b>	
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DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)		REFERRED TO		DATE		RECEIVED BY	
<b>expresses outage re delays in decommissioning the Humboldt Bay facility &amp; licensing Diablo Canyon</b>		SS- <b>Eisenhut</b>		<b>10/8</b>		cc: <b>Case</b>	
		<i>[Signature]</i>				<b>Denton</b>	
		<i>[Signature]</i>				<b>1. PPAS</b>	
						<b>2. Hanauer</b>	
						<b>3. Mattgeon</b>	
						<b>4. Vollmer</b>	
						<b>5. Thompson</b>	
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						<b>7. Snyder</b>	
REMARKS:							

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

MAIL CONTROL FORM

FORM NRC-3265  
(6-76)

Harold Denton  
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. NRC

Sept 29

Dear Mr. Denton,

As a resident of Humboldt County I am appalled at the record of the Humboldt Bay Nuclear power plant. Continuous problems during operation in the past, attempts at keeping relevant information from the public record, and the fact that three "capable" earthquake faults exist nearby, contribute to my outrage.

Decommissioning of the entire plant is imperative. I hold the NRC partly responsible for allowing PG&E continuous delays in the inevitable shut down proceedings. The political game that PG&E is being allowed to play outrages not only me, but a growing number of previously apathetic people who are awakening to the obvious injustice. We will not sit back as the nuclear wool is pulled over our eyes. That the full cost of the Diablo Canyon nuke will be passed to rate-payers when the plant goes critical infuriates me. The connection between Humboldt Bay decommissioning delays and Diablo Canyon licensing delays is also obvious. We will not stand-by as the future of our children are left in the hands of a profit minded vote system. Please heed our requests.

Yours very sincerely,

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Christopher Knight

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CF

Christopher Enright  
567 12th St. Apt B  
Arcata, CA. 95521



Harold Denton  
Director of Nuclear Reaction Regulation  
U.S. N.R.C.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

ATTN: Sacketing and Service # 50-133