

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE  
REGION V  
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September 15, 1971

J. G. Keppler, Chief  
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Division of Compliance, Headquarters

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (HUMBOLDT BAY)  
DOCKET NO. 50-133  
INVESTIGATION

The enclosed report documents the findings of the investigation conducted into the allegations made by Robert J. Rowen, Jr., former employee of the licensee, in his letter to AEC, dated April 30, 1971, and in two interviews conducted with him during May, 1971. The investigation also covered an allegation made by Howard J. Darrington, IV, a current PG&E employee and shop steward of the local union.

The investigation found two items of noncompliance and one item of potential health and safety significance.

During the investigation it became apparent to our investigator that many of the allegations made by Mr. Rowen were based on his incomplete knowledge of situations. Other statements he made were merely self-serving since they reported occasions where corrective action was taken by him at the time in his capacity as Control Technician. Of the forty-nine allegations or statements that he made, two were found to involve matters which were citable. Other than Mr. Rowen, no person interviewed had been told not to report matters to AEC.

In the course of further investigation to examine the incident of the pump seal failure of June 21, 1970, it was established that there was inadequate evaluation of air contamination prior to the entry of three employees who valved-off the clean-up pump at the minus 66 ft. level. It should be noted that the same deficiency, inadequate air sampling, came to light during the Compliance Inspection of September 2-4, 1970 (CO Report No. 50-133/70-5). The licensee was cited then for this lapse which also occurred during the subsequent maintenance operations required to repair the pump.

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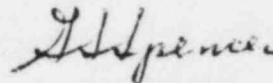
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Additionally, the investigation found one item of potential health and safety significance in that a possibility exists for the plant domestic water system to be indirectly contaminated with reactor water. We feel this system warrants a further review, either by DRL or Technical Support Branch, to determine whether this is a matter of concern.

Comments obtained from the various individuals interviewed indicate that the licensee's radiation protection training program for their technicians will warrant a review during our next routine health physics inspection at the facility just to satisfy ourselves on this matter.

My overall impression of the situation, based on a review of the report, is that it involved an over-zealous employee who didn't know when to quit and a frustrated employer who considered the employee a "gadfly" to the extent that they had difficulty treating even his constructive criticisms and suggestions objectively.



G. S. Spencer  
Senior Reactor Inspector

Enclosure:

Inv. Rpt. No. 7101  
by J. J. Ward  
dtd 9-15-71

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