



UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE  
REGION V  
2111 BANCROFT WAY  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704

TELEPHONE: 841-5121  
EXT. 651

May 6, 1971

James P. O'Reilly, Chief  
Reactor Inspection and Enforcement Branch  
Division of Compliance, Headquarters

COMPLIANCE INQUIRY MEMORANDUM  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
HUMBOLDT BAY POWER STATION  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA - DOCKET NO. 50-133  
ALLEGATION OF POSSIBLE UNSAFE PRACTICES

On May 5, 1971, a Mr. William F. Ferroggiaro, Jr., who identified himself as the District Attorney of Humboldt County, California, visited the Region V offices. Meeting with him were R. W. Smith, Regional Director; G. S. Spencer, Senior Reactor Inspector; and H. E. Book, Senior Radiation Specialist. Mr. Ferroggiaro's business address is the Courthouse, Eureka, California, and his telephone number is (707) 442-0883.

Mr. Ferroggiaro was seeking information on behalf of the Humboldt County Grand Jury regarding an allegation made by two PG&E employees who work or had worked at the Humboldt reactor. Mr. Ferroggiaro said the two employees have stated that they had been required by PG&E management to certify to standards which they felt were not being met by the plant. It is his belief that their complaint is related to the release of effluents from the plant, but beyond that he could give no details concerning the allegations. He identified the two employees as Mr. Robert J. Rowen and Mr. Forrest Williams. He said he wondered if the AEC (Compliance) would provide testimony to the Grand Jury, if so requested, on the operation of the Humboldt reactor.

At his request, we explained the AEC's role in regulating the operation of the reactor, including a brief description of our compliance inspections and the Independent Measurements Program we have been conducting in the Eureka area. We also mentioned the current EPA monitoring project around the Humboldt reactor. We informed Mr. Ferroggiaro that we had heard of Mr. Rowen and Mr. Williams some months ago when

8305180795 710915  
PDR ADOCK 05000133  
Q PDR

12556

James P. O'Reilly

- 2 -

May 6, 1971

PG&E management had mentioned to us that they were having some kind of employee-relations problems with them. We told him that the AEC subsequently received a letter from Mr. Rowen inquiring into an employee's right to talk to Compliance, but that we have never received a complaint at any time from either individual. Mr. Ferroggiaro said that his interests were not involved with labor relations but, rather, with any hazard possibly connected with the operation of the plant. We told Mr. Ferroggiaro that our inspections to date have not revealed any noncompliance in the release of effluents from the Humboldt plant.

Mr. Ferroggiaro was informed that, because of his inquiry, the AEC would conduct an investigation into the allegation of the two men. He seemed to welcome this proposed action and expressed the feeling that, as a result, the whole matter "may wash out". Arrangements were then made for H. E. Book and J. J. Ward to meet with Mr. Ferroggiaro in his office on the morning of May 11, 1971, to initiate the investigation. R. H. Engelken, CO:HQ, was later informed of this situation by telephone on May 5, 1971.

*H. E. Book*

CO:V:HEB

H. E. Book  
Senior Radiation Specialist

cc: -A. Giambusso, CO  
-R. H. Engelken, CO  
-L. Kornblith, Jr., CO