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GEORGE A. MANEATIS
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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BRANCH

June 8, 1984

PGandE Letter No.: DCL-84-209

Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 "H" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Commissioner James K. Asselstine
Commissioner Frederick M. Bernthal
Commissioner Victor Gilinsky
Commissioner Thomas M. Roberts

Re: Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-76
Diablo Canyon Unit 1
Request for Authority to Conduct Full-Power Operation

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

In December 1982, the Commission approved a three-step licensing process for Diablo Canyon Unit 1. The three steps were: (1) fuel load, (2) low-power testing up to five percent power, and (3) operation above five percent power.

Pursuant to that process, the Commission on November 8, 1983, granted PGandE authority to load fuel and conduct cold-system testing. After successful completion of these activities, the Commission on January 25, 1984, authorized PGandE to conduct hot-system testing. This second set of precritical activities was completed in March 1984, ending Step 1 of the licensing process.

On April 13, 1984, the Commission granted PGandE authority (CLI-84-5) for initial criticality and low-power testing - Step 2 of the process. Pursuant to this authority, PGandE's Diablo Canyon Unit 1 achieved criticality and commenced low-power testing on April 29, 1984. The tests, which were conducted pursuant to the Order included zero-power physics tests, auxiliary feedwater pump endurance test, loss of offsite power test, chemical and volume control system capability check, and natural circulation tests. We are pleased to report that these tests were successfully completed on May 23, 1984, ending Step 2 of the licensing process. No problems of any significance were encountered.

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In preparation for seeking authority for operation above five percent power-- Step 3 of the process--PGandE is conducting several additional surveillance tests which are prerequisite to power ascension and full-power operation. We are also nearing completion of a few remaining construction activities which are required for operation above five percent power. We anticipate that Unit 1 will be ready to commence power ascension by June 19, 1984.

We also recognize that other actions required by the Commission Order (CLI-84-5) and Amendment 9 to the Low-Power License must be completed prior to the issuance of a full-power license. They include Staff resolution of miscellaneous piping and pipe support issues and resolution of items identified in Supplement 22 of the Staff's Safety Evaluation Report (SSER 22). The NRC Staff is currently conducting audits relative to the remaining piping issues. PGandE completed its action on these matters today. In addition to working to resolve these piping issues, PGandE has submitted information to the Staff for the resolution of items identified in SSER 22.

We also note that the ACRS Subcommittees on Diablo Canyon and Extreme External Phenomena met jointly on May 24 to discuss the questions asked in the Commission's letter to the ACRS dated April 13, 1984. We understand that the ACRS will be providing its views to the Commission following its June 14 meeting of the full Committee.

With the successful completion of the low-power testing program and of the few remaining construction activities, and with our submittal of information to the Staff responsive to the piping issues and to the items identified in SSER 22, PGandE believes that it will have satisfied all Commission requirements for operation above five percent power. Accordingly, PGandE respectfully requests that the Commission grant PGandE authority to operate Diablo Canyon Unit 1 above five percent power on or about June 19, 1984.

Sincerely,

G. A. Manassis

GAM:adb

cc HRDenton
JBMartin
HESchierling
Service List