

FEB 1 1973

Docket No. 50-133

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
ATTN: Mr. Frederick T. Searls  
Vice President and General  
Counsel

77 Beale Street  
San Francisco, California 94106

Change No. 43  
License No. DPR-7

Gentlemen:

In response to our letter of December 22, 1972, regarding temperature and pressure limitations for hydrostatic tests of the primary coolant system, your letter dated January 25, 1973, proposed a change to the Technical Specifications of Facility License No. DPR-7 for Humboldt Bay Power Plant Unit No. 3. The proposed change would increase the hydrostatic test pressure at your normal pressure vessel hydrostatic testing temperature of 120°F from the current limit of 575 psig to 800 psig as discussed in our December 22, 1972 letter. You also stated that studies were underway in consultation with the General Electric Company to determine appropriate temperature and pressure limitations for the Humboldt Bay reactor vessel during hydrostatic testing of isolation valves using code Appendix G 2000.

Considering the July 1971 neutron fluence data you submitted on April 7, 1972, for the Humboldt Bay reactor vessel, we have estimated that an additional radiation induced temperature shift of about 20°F would result from the next 4 years of operation which must be factored into the pressure-temperature limitation calculations. We have reviewed your request within the above consideration and concluded that a reasonable hydrostatic test pressure at 120°F would be the proposed test pressure of 800 psig for an interim period not to exceed 1 year. Based on the above considerations, we have determined that the proposed change does not present significant hazards considerations not described or implicit in the Humboldt Bay Unit No. 3 Safety Analysis Report and that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner.

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Accordingly, pursuant to Section 50.59 of 10 CFR Part 50, you are hereby authorized to perform the reactor isolation valve testing as described in Specification III.B.5.b. of the Technical Specifications appended to Facility License No. DPR-7 at a pressure up to 800 psig with the reactor vessel metal temperature at 120°F or greater. This authorization shall remain in effect for one year from the date of this letter or until an appropriate long-term temperature and pressure limitation for the Humboldt Bay reactor vessel is approved, whichever occurs sooner.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
D. J. Skovholt

Donald J. Skovholt  
Assistant Director for  
Operating Reactors  
Directorate of Licensing

cc: Philip A. Crane, Jr.  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale Street  
San Francisco, California 94106

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