



OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

October 7, 1981

Mr. Steve Wahl
604 W. 10th Street
Corona, CA 91720

Dear Mr. Wahl:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding Diablo Canyon. The recent Commission decision authorizing low-power testing and fuel loading is only the first step in Commission review of this plant. Specifically, the earthquake-related issues that distinguish Diablo Canyon from most other nuclear units have not yet been addressed in detail by the Commission. They will be reviewed before operation above five percent power is authorized.

While it may have some symbolic importance, a decision to authorize low-power testing poses very little danger to the public. The power level is so low that the operators have more than ample time to react to any problems in the plant, and the amount of radioactivity existing in the core does not begin to build up until the plant has operated for quite a while.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Bradford
Commissioner

*P.S. I agree with you that President
Reagan's emphasis on nuclear power at the expense
of solar and conservative alternatives in his DOE
budget makes no sense.*

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