



OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER

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

November 12, 1981

Ms. Lorna Chalpin  
Box 906  
Laytonville, CA 95454

Dear Ms. Chalpin:

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. Humboldt Bay has not operated for some years  
and will not do so unless it is modified.*

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