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Commissioner Victor Gilinsky
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs Region Five
1450 Maria Ln.
Walnut Creek, Ca.

Dear Commissioner Gilinsky;

Will it take a devastating earthquake at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant to shake sense into your colleagues at the NRC?

Last month your commission voted in favor of loading atomic fuel into the troubled Diablo Canyon plant.

This irresponsible and foolish decision does not come as a surprise. It is simply another example of the commission's lackadaisical attitude regarding public safety when licensing nuclear power plants. It seems that your commission is more concerned with politics than with environmental safety.

I would like to commend you, however, for abstaining from this recent vote. I urge you to convince your fellow commissioners to reconsider the facts regarding Diablo Canyon before making the tragic mistake of bringing this plant into operation. Perhaps the NRC needs to be reminded of some of the serious problems associated with this plant.

In 1976 United States Geological Survey scientists said that an earthquake nearly five times stronger than the one that hit the San Fernando Valley in 1971 is possible along the undersea fault close to Diablo Canyon. You must be aware that this fault is located less than three miles from the Diablo Canyon plant.

Last month officials of the Teledyne Engineering Services Co. reported to the commission that the problems at the Diablo Canyon plant had been solved, and that the operating license could be restored without a risk to public safety.

First of all, there is a risk to public safety with every nuclear power plant already in existence. There is no way to build, operate, and maintain a nuclear power plant free of error. Let us not so hastily forget about the catastrophes which nearly happened at Brown's Ferry, Ginna, and Three Mile Island. In each of these accidents human error was to blame, and the public was very much in danger.

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Second, Bechtel engineers estimated in January of last year that this plant would require more than 3000 safety modifications in order to meet the level which was then considered to be safe. It seems unlikely that all of these modifications could have been corrected in just ten month's time. And what about the potential problems that have not yet been detected? It took engineers four years before they noticed that Diablo Canyon had been built completely backwards! I can just imagine how many more mistakes may be uncovered in four more years, that is, if an earthquake doesn't occur before then.

Please do not allow this plant to come into operation. The NRC should have enough common sense and integrity to ignore any pressures placed on it from either Pacific Gas and Electric or the Reagan Administration.

There is still time to make a rational decision regarding Diablo Canyon. Please make it.

Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter.

Sincerely

Julie Fraisse

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