

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE
REGION V

Report of Inspection

CO Report No. 50-275/68-1

Licensee: Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Construction Permit No. CPPR-39
Category A

Date of Inspection: May 23, 1968

Date of Previous Inspection: This was the initial formal CO
contact with the applicant.

Inspected by:

A. D. Johnson

5/29/68

A. D. Johnson
Reactor Inspector

Reviewed by:

G. S. Spencer

5/29/68

G. S. Spencer, Senior
Reactor Inspector

Proprietary Information:

None

SUMMARY

An initial meeting was held with officials of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to discuss the role of the Division of Compliance during construction of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The applicant plans to begin excavation for the plant sometime during early summer 1968 and anticipated the work would be completed within a period of 4 to 6 months. In view of the lack of any particular problems relating to the site, a "site preparation" visit is not planned.

SCOPE

G. S. Spencer and A. D. Johnson, Region V, Division of Compliance met with officials of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco, California, on May 23, 1967. The purpose of the meeting was to afford the officials of the company an opportunity to become fully informed concerning the role and responsibilities of the Division of Compliance during construction of their proposed nuclear power plant at Diablo Canyon. The meeting, also was

to enable the inspectors to learn of the applicant's proposed schedule for constructing the plant and the proposed plans for assuring that the plant is constructed in conformance with the design specifications.

Discussions were held with the following officials of Pacific Gas & Electric.

J. F. Bonner - Senior, Vice President
D. V. Kelly - Chief, Mechanical Engineer
J. L. Schyler - Senior Mechanical Engineer
W. J. Lindblad - Design Engineer

DETAILS

In light of past experience, the applicant has elected to delay start of plant construction until the initial decision of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has become final--June 7, 1968. Excavation work was anticipated to begin sometime during early summer and to be completed after four to six months of work. Placement of concrete, therefore, probably will begin sometime after January 1, 1968.

The applicant seemed to be well aware of current problems being encountered by others in constructing nuclear power plants, and seemed to fully appreciate the merits of an extensive and detailed quality control program to assure that the proposed plant is built in accordance with the design specifications. Several design engineers of the Company were currently visiting sites of nuclear power plants presently under construction to ascertain the problems being encountered. PG&E feels this will permit measures to be taken in sufficient time to avoid encountering similar problems; e.g., the recent fire in the power cables at San Onofre has resulted in reconsideration of the proposed design criteria concerning similar installations planned for the Diablo Canyon plant.

Mr. Bonner inquired as to whether or not cleaning solutions used during fabrication had been confirmed to have been a source of the problem concerning the cracks found in the Oyster Creek pressure vessel. He indicated that since Combustion Engineering was also fabricating the pressure vessel for their plant, PG&E had a serious concern in matters of this type. He added that the PG&E company has a representative who currently visits Combustion Engineering twice a month to review progress on the vessel and to assure that it is being constructed according to the specifications. Mr. Kelly also stated that the engineering department of PG&E has been charged with the responsibility of assuring that the plant is built in conformance with design specifications and in accordance with the information supplied to the AEC. To accomplish this objective, Kelly indicated that a comprehensive quality assurance program would be formulated and initiated upon start of construction. Mr. Bonner confirmed the company's position, stated in the application, that the Engineering Department has full authority to stop work on any system when discrepancies from the specification are disclosed by field engineers responsible for quality control.

The noted discrepancy must then be corrected or otherwise resolved by the engineer in charge of design before work will be permitted to continue.

In view of the information provided in the preliminary safety analysis report for the Diablo Canyon plant and the published findings of the Applicant, DRL, and the ACRS concerning the suitability of the site for the construction of a nuclear power plant, no site preparation inspection effort is planned.