



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

NOV 16 1998

EA 98-185

Gregory M. Rueger, Senior Vice President
and General Manager
Nuclear Power Generation Bus. Unit
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Nuclear Power Generation, B14A
77 Beale Street, Room 1451
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-275/98-16; 50-323/98-16 AND EXERCISE OF
ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION

Dear Mr. Rueger:

From September 13, 1998 through October 24, 1998, a routine inspection was conducted at your Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection period, your conduct of activities at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and good radiation protection support.

Based on the information developed during the inspection, one violation was identified. The violation involved the simultaneous inoperability of the Unit 2 Train A safety injection pump, the Train A residual heat removal pump, and Valve 8923A, the Train A safety injection suction from refueling water storage tank. This condition occurred for 14 hours 30 minutes in November 1989 (reference Licensee Event Report 50-323/95003-00) and rendered both trains of safety injection inoperable for the long-term recirculation cooling mode. Also, this condition existed during maintenance of these components and resulted from a then-unrecognized interdependency of cold leg recirculation suction flow paths between the emergency core cooling system trains. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) engineers identified this deficiency during a review of industry information in November 1995. We note that PG&E performed an evaluation that demonstrated core cooling could have been provided by the Unit 2 Train B residual heat removal pump and two charging pumps. Therefore, this violation has been categorized in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600 at Severity Level III.

The condition was identified through review of historical records several years after occurrence when licensee engineers were evaluating new industry information. Based on the age of the issue, its isolated occurrence, the fact that it was not likely to be identified by routine licensee efforts, and the initiative demonstrated by the licensee to identify and promptly correct the

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potential condition, the NRC has decided that enforcement action is not warranted for this matter. Therefore, after consultation with the Director, Office of Enforcement, and in accordance with Section VII.B.6 of the NRC's Enforcement Policy, the NRC is exercising its enforcement discretion to not propose a civil penalty and to not cite a violation in this case.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Ellis W. Merschhoff
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos.: 50-275
50-323
License Nos.: DPR-80
DPR-82

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-275/98-16; 50-323/98-16

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 E-Mail report to D. Lange (DJL)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
 E-Mail report to Richard Correria (RPC)
 E-Mail report to Don Taylor (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/E)
 Senior Project Inspector (DRP/E)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
 G. Sanborn (EA file)

Resident Inspector
 DRS-PSB
 MIS System
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 J. Lieberman, D/OE

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11/3/98	11/12/98		

*previously concurred

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