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DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

HEADQUARTERS: 965 MISSION STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 3

February 25, 1960

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY
965 MISSION STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 3
EX 6900K 2 B 302

50-133
Suppl. File 4

The United States Atomic Energy Commission
Division of Licensing and Regulations
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Dr. Clifford K. Beck, Chief
Reactor Hazards Evaluation Branch

Gentlemen:

Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Reactor Containment
Humboldt Bay, California

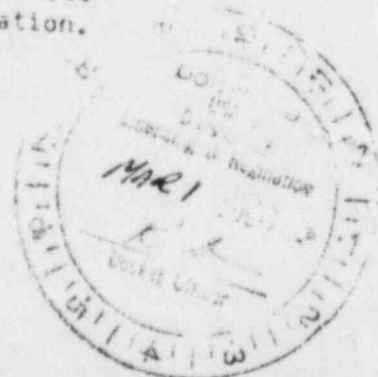
It is our opinion that the proposed containment for this reactor is not adequate to protect the public and employees from credible accidents. Our objection is based on two factors.

First: That all of the reactor, which includes the check valve on the feed line and the primary stop valve on the main steam header, is not located within the pressure suppression system.

Second: That the probability of a reactor vessel failure is of the same order of magnitude as the failure of the pressure piping. If the shell or heads of the reactor vessel were to fail, through some combination of transient thermal stresses in transition sections and effects of high gamma and neutron flux, the suppression system appears to be inadequate both from missile damage and transient pressure considerations.

We feel that the suppression system has many advantages over conventional containment in addition to the apparent economic one. It reduces the chances of persons being trapped in the containment vessel in case of a pressure vessel failure, it contains the fission products underground, and it appears to provide for simpler decontamination.

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PDR FOIA
FIREST085-665 PDR



Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Reactor Containment

-2-

Basically, since it is our opinion that a pressure vessel failure is as probable as a pressure piping failure, the suppression system as presently designed has only a 50 percent chance of containing a reactor failure.

Very truly yours,

DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

Thomas N. Saunders, Chief

William W. Steffen
William W. Steffen
Health Physicist

cc: George A. Sherman
James H. Heacock (Los Angeles)
A. I. Snyder

Mr. Alexander Grendon
Coordinator of Atomic Energy Development
and Radiation Protection
State of California
Governor's Office
Sacramento 14, California

Pacific Gas & Electric Company
245 Market Street
San Francisco, California

Attn: Mr. James Schuyler

Change of Address

EFFECTIVE - FEBRUARY 1, 1960

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Fair Employment Practices
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Industrial Accidents

Industrial Safety
Industrial Welfare
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STATE BUILDING ANNEX
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco 2, California
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Address Mail To: P. O. Box 603
San Francisco 1, California

 Moving from 965 Mission Street

Note: Division of Apprenticeship Standards
remains at Rm. 139, World Trade Center, S. F. 11

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