

PACIFIC MARINE STATION
COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

500-25
Suppl. File 4

DILLON BEACH
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

October 27, 1960

Maj. Gen. A. R. Luedecke, U.S.A.F. (Ret.)
General Manager
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Luedecke:

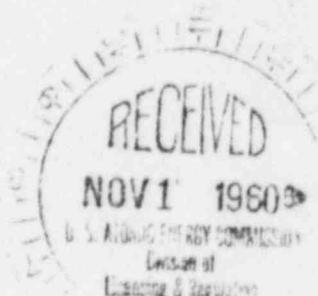
I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. McKerman concerning an evaluation report on Humboldt Bay for your information.

Very truly yours,

Joel W. Hedgpeth

Joel W. Hedgpeth
Director

JWH:ja



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Mr. Nichols - Referred
Regional Commercial Fisheries
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been reading the report by Walter A. Chapman on "An Evaluation of Predictive Criteria on Fish and Shellfish of the Operation of a Nuclear Reactor at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company Located Near Eureka, California". There are two things about this report that I do not find reassuring. First of these is the argument by analogy of the hydrographical characteristics of Humboldt Bay. I do not think it is a good idea to prepare estimates of exchange characteristics on the basis of some hypothetical or typical harbor, and while it may be true that the total amounts of radioactive material which may be released during normal operation of the proposed plant would be very small, there is no data in this report to support the conclusions about the dispersal and exchange of this material. In fact, there is no evidence in this report that any hydrographic work has been done in Humboldt Bay, and that any member of the Fish & Wildlife staff has even visited Humboldt Bay. Here in Tule Lake for example, preliminary studies indicated a contradiction which can only be resolved by much more thorough hydrographical work. It would appear from the total volumes of the tidal prism that the bay may be flushed out with every tidal cycle. Yet there is a well defined temperature and salinity gradient in a distance of 15 miles, which would suggest a definite lag effect in a much simpler system than that of Humboldt Bay. I am not happy to see a report by the Fish & Wildlife Service that depends so much upon this reasoning by analogy.

The other point that disturbs me is that after some discussion of the importance of the possible accumulation of radionuclides in the bottom sediments and suspended solids, the discussion concludes with the following statement: "Because of the lack of quantitative information, this uptake by bottom sediments and suspended matter cannot enter into our evaluation of a radioactive pollution situation." This sounds too much like a statement out of Dr. Edward Teller's office, and in fact looks to me like an abdication of responsibility.

I understand that the Service is planning to submit a similar report on the proposal to build a nuclear power plant on Bodega Head. I think it will be some years yet before there is enough information available to say even as much as is said in this report about Humboldt Bay. You may

to "recommend" to the Secretary of the Interior that "he consider the same in his budget and in his annual report to Congress." This is a very definite suggestion and there can be little doubt that it will be followed.

There were some difficulties in covering the Pacific Coast in this bill. It was felt that although the Bureau and the State Fish and Game Department should be placed under the Fish & Wildlife Service under its own bureaus to insure neutrality, nevertheless such a change is that of Dr. Franklin's letter to Congressman Miller that he determined to as there is little likelihood the plants would have any adverse effect upon the fishes in the river, it is suggested. I do not know what anything is really determined in this legislation and while Mr. Chapman is reasonably careful in specifying what he is evaluating or analogy, the covering letters convey a much stronger impression.

Very truly yours,

John V. Dippelt
Director
cc: T.C.P.
Major General U. S. Cavalry