

PACIFIC MARINE STATION
COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

DILLON BEACH
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

October 27, 1960

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

Dear General Luedcke:

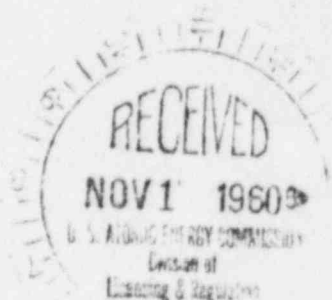
I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. McKernan concerning an
evaluation report on Humboldt Bay for your information.

Very truly yours,

Joel W. Hadgpath

Joel W. Hadgpath
Director

JWH:js



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Mr. Donald W. Robertson
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I have been reading the report by Walter A. Chipman on "An Evaluation of Possible Effects 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 hydrographic 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 Bay for example, preliminary studies indicated a circulation which can only be resolved by much more thorough hydrographical work. It would appear from the total volume 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 represent 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 Sodega 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

