



Nans Schierling

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
September 5, 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal
Commissioner Zech

FROM: Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: DIABLO CANYON CONGRESSIONAL FIELD HEARINGS

On Thursday, August 30, 1984, Rep. Jerry Patterson (D-CA) and Rep. Leon Panetta participated in the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment's hearing on Diablo Canyon licensing. The hearing was held in San Luis Obispo, CA. The list of witnesses is attached.

Commissioner Asselstine and NRC staff (Richard Vollmer, Isa Yin, John Martin and Thomas Bishop) were the first witnesses. Commissioner Asselstine submitted the Commission's testimony for the record, then read his prepared statement. The Commissioner indicated that the Court's stay of the Commission's licensing decision provides an opportunity for the Commission to allow the issue of the complicating effects of earthquakes on emergency planning to be litigated, conduct a special review of the large and small bore piping seismic design adequacy, and allow reinvestigation of allegations of improper conduct by the NRC staff prior to reissuance of the low-power license.

Members were interested in determining the extent of Isa Yin's participation in Diablo Canyon review and also questioned the staff concerning PG&E's "quick-fix" program. Under questioning, Commissioner Asselstine indicated he felt the Commission majority had an unfortunate preoccupation with avoiding licensing delays and did not look to see if it had sufficient information to authorize full-power operation. He also said that the staff review was determined by the licensing schedule. He added steps could have been taken earlier to resolve outstanding issues.

In their testimony, representatives of the Mothers of Peace were quite critical of the NRC, charging the agency with failing to address issues such as emergency preparedness, the seismic adequacy of the plant, the lack of experienced operators, and PG&E's quality assurance problems. They added that allers were not being treated fairly by the NRC.

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Representatives of Citizens for Adequate Energy spoke in favor of safe operation of Diablo Canyon, adding that the NRC must consider the good of all citizens, not just special interest groups.

The CODES panel indicated that PG&E's lack of character and competence is demonstrated by its refusal to listen to workers' concerns, then trying to harass and intimidate those workers. They claimed the NRC had different standards for Diablo Canyon than those used at other plants and indicated the NRC treats whistleblowers unfairly. The panel was critical of the NRC's review of the Pulman Power Audit. Mr. Hudson indicated that the NRC had only reviewed those portions of the Pulman audit that it felt were important. Mr. Stokes indicated he was terminated for raising concerns about the adequacy of piping reports. Mr. O'Neill indicated that QA personnel were instructed not to write deficiency reports, but to write lower class reports for in-house review.

Bruce Norton of PG&E indicated that the effect of earthquakes had been considered in the San Luis Obispo County emergency response plan. The PG&E panel also indicated that there was nothing to gain from a rereview of the small bore piping issues and were critical of Mr. Yin's performance, claiming he took leave in the midst of peer review group activities.

The members of the panel of local elected officials expressed a variety of opinions. One felt that the NRC betrayed them by licensing Diablo Canyon without resolving all issues. Most stated that the emergency response plan was inadequate. Another spoke of widespread support for Diablo Canyon among area residents.

Copies of written testimony are available in Congressional Affairs.

cc: EDO
OGC
OPE
SECY
NRR
ELD
REGION V
M. Mendonca, Resident Inspector

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

OVERSIGHT HEARING ON THE DIABLO CANYON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
San Luis Obispo, California
Thursday, August 30, 1984

WITNESSES

12:00 - 12:15 P.M.

OPENING STATEMENTS

12:15 - 1:15 P.M.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Commissioner James K. Asselstine

1:15 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

MOTHERS FOR PEACE

Ms. Sandy Silver
Ms. Nancy Culver
Mr. Joel Reynolds

1:45 P.M. - 2:15 P.M.

CITIZENS FOR ADEQUATE ENERGY (CAE)

Mr. Robert Dorn
Mr. Jack Fabbri
Ms. Carolee Munger
Ms. Carol Mankins

2:15 - 2:45 P.M.

CONSUMERS IN DEFENSE OF ENERGY SAFETY (CODES)

Mr. Ken Baggard
Mr. Thomas Devine, Attorney Representing Workers
Mr. Charles Stokes, Engineer
Mr. Harold Hudson, Auditor
Mr. Timothy J. O'Neill, Quality Control Inspector
Mr. Mark Smith, Quality Control Inspector

2:45 - 3:15 P.M.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E)

Mr. Bruce Norton, PG&E Licensing Attorney

3:15 - 3:45 P.M.

AREA ELECTED OFFICIALS

15-MINUTE BREAK

4:00 - ~~8~~ 5:00 P.M.

CITIZEN STATEMENTS