

DOCKET NO. 50-205

MAY 16 1963

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Mr. Calvin F. Hansen
615 San Fernando Avenue
Berkeley 7, California

Dear Mr. Hansen:

This refers to your letter of April 11, 1963 in which you express concern for the safety of persons in the area surrounding the proposed reactor site at Bodega Bay and for the conservation of natural resources.

Enclosed is a pamphlet prepared by the Commission's Division of Public Information concerning the licensing of power reactors. I hope you will find it reassuring concerning the discharge by the Atomic Energy Commission of its responsibility relative to the health and safety of the public.

Before the Commission can consider issuance of a permit authorizing the Pacific Gas & Electric Company to construct the proposed plant at the proposed site, the Commission's Division of Licensing and Regulation will make a comprehensive safety evaluation of the proposal, the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards will thoroughly review the application and a public hearing will be held before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board or an AEC Hearing Examiner, as required by law. After the issuance of an Initial Decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board or the Hearing Examiner, the entire hearing record is subject to review by the Commission. The hydrological, meteorological, and geological aspects of the site, including the effects of earthquake on the proposed plant, will be thoroughly explored in the course of review by the Commission's staff and the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. The purpose of these extensive procedures is to assure thorough consideration of all aspects of the proposed plant bearing upon the question whether the reactor can be constructed and operated at the proposed site without undue risk to the health and safety of the public. However,

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Mr. Calvin A. Hansen

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soning questions, conservation matters and the siting of the site are not within the jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Commission and, therefore, are not considered in the course of its review and evaluation of the application.

As you know, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is a Committee established by the Congress to advise the Commission on questions of reactor safety. It is made up of scientists and engineers who are eminently qualified in reactor technology. The reports of the Committee are made available to the public and announced by the Commission. The analysis of the safety aspects of the proposed reactor prepared by the Division of Licensing and Regulation will also be available to the public. This analysis will set forth the position which the Regulatory Staff will take at the public hearing. At that hearing, which will be held in California on a date and at a place to be announced, members of the Regulatory Staff will appear to explain their evaluation of the safety of the proposed reactor. Moreover, an opportunity to participate in the hearing is afforded the public pursuant to the Commission's "Rules of Practice", 10 C.F.R. part 2, a copy of which is enclosed. I feel sure that these procedures will enable all interested persons in the area to acquaint themselves with the details of the proposal and with the Regulatory Staff's evaluation thereof.

In conformity with your request, we have made arrangements to assure that you will be issued a copy of such notice of hearing as we do issue in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by
Eber R. Price

Eber R. Price
Assistant Director
Division of Licensing
and Regulation

Enclosures:
as stated above

bcc: Stan Robinson
OGC
C. T. Edwards
Eber Price

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