

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Joe Fouchard, Division of Public Information, Headquarters

DATE: May 3, 1962

FROM : Dale J. Cook, Acting Assistant to the Manager for Public Information, SAN

Central Files

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA PUC TO REOPEN BODEGA HEAD HEARING MAY 21, 1962

MI:DJC

Reference is made to my April 26, 1962, memo, subject as above.

There is attached text of a flyer being circulated by the J. B. Neilands of Berkeley aimed at amalgamating opponents to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Bodega Head nuclear power plant project prior to the May 21 State Public Utilities Commission hearing.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Neilands have contacted this office three times within the last week. Their line of inquiry seemed to be concerned with the formalities of such a reactor hearing before the Commission. Neither was aware that PG&E had not filed an application with the AEC, nor did they have background knowledge of the procedures and technical evaluations which the AEC follows and makes in its review. Neilands asserted that an application going through the Commission was nothing but a "rubber stamp" affair and that he was of the opinion that the Commission had never turned down an application. The function of the ACRS, staff technical evaluations and examples of the action taken by the Commission to ensure public safety were explained to them. They seemed to have special worries about a location on the San Andreas fault and gaseous effluent releases. These questions I assured them would certainly be given very careful consideration by the Commission once a formal application is received from the Utility for a permit to build the reactor.

Enclosure:

Flyer circulated by Neilands dtd 4/27/62

cc: L. D. Low, Dir., Div. of Compliance, HQS, w/enc
Robert Lowenstein, Dir., Div. of Licensing & Regulation, HQS, w/enc
A. Giambusso, Reactor Projects, DRD, HQS, w/enc

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 1962

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HEARINGS WILL BE RE-OPENED ON THE P.G. & E. APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A NUCLEAR REACTOR ON BODEGA HEAD. THE NEW SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 10 A.M. ON MAY 21 IN THE COURTROOM OF THE STATE BUILDING IN SAN FRANCISCO. IN A HANDS-ACROSS-THE-COUNTIES GESTURE, A GROUP OF BAY AREA NATURALISTS, CONSERVATIONISTS AND SCIENTISTS ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE LOCAL RESIDENTS OF BODEGA BAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO INDUCE THE COMPANY TO LOCATE THE PLANT ELSEWHERE.

This release has been prepared by the undersigned who is a member of the above-mentioned group.

/s/ J. B. Neilands
J. B. Neilands
185 Hill Road, Berkeley
THornwall 3-8187

For confirmation this report concerning time, date and place for the hearings has been checked with Mr. Bell, Public Utilities Commission, Underhill 1-8700, Ex. 2987