

Return to *ALH*
C-058 after
signature.

50-245
- *Suppl.*

Dear Mr. Wheelwright:

This is in response to your letter of March 21, 1963, with respect to the application of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company to construct and operate a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head, Sonoma County, California. I am pleased to have the opportunity to reply to the thoughtful points which you have raised.

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 it can be constructed and operated at the proposed site without undue risk to the health and safety of the public. However, zoning questions, conservation matters and the esthetics of the site are not within the jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Commission and, therefore, are not considered in the course of the review and evaluation of the application which I have just described.

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

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Mr. George W. Wheelwright, 3rd

- 2 -

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 CFR 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.

Since this matter is currently pending before the Commission, I do not feel that it would be proper for me to discuss the merits of the specific proposal. However, I hope that this explanation of the careful consideration given by the Commission to power reactor licensing matters and the opportunity afforded the public to make their views known to the Commission prior to a final decision on the application will be reassuring to you.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Commissioner Haworth
Commissioner Palfrey
Commissioner Ramey
Commissioner Wilson

bcc: Chairman Seaborg (2)
Cong. Liaison (2)
General Manager
H. L. Price
OGC
C. T. Edwards

Chairman

Mr. George W. Wheelwright, 3rd
Green Gulch Ranch, Star Route
Sausalito, California

Enclosure:

10 CFR Part 2

DLR

EGCase

CONG. LIA.

Madlock

OFFICE	DLR	DLR	DLR	BLR	REG	GM
SURNAME	TEdwards:bmj	LPHoard	ERPrice	RLowenstein	HLPrice	
DATE	4/1/63	4/1/63	4/9/63	4/9/63	4/15/63	4/1/63

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

3-25
(Date)

TO:

DR

Comm For Information

___ For appropriate handling

DR For preparation of reply for Chairman's
signature (Refer to Manual Chapter 0240)

___ For discussion at Commissioners' Information
Meeting

___ For distribution to other Commissioners

file Daily Log

REMARKS:

Ans. should emphasize that
AEC role is not to be
also that most of the
expression is in the

CHS
Howard C. Brown, Jr.
For the Chairman