Mrs. Rose S. Gaffney Bodega Bay California

Dear Mrs. Gaffney:

This refers to your letter of February 9 to Mr. Richard Smith of our San Francisco Operations Office regarding activities of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in the Bodega Head area.

It appears that the basic questions you raise deal with the matter of property rights which apparently are complicated in California by the historical relationship with Mexico. The Atomic Energy Commission does not become involved in such questions in its regulatory control over nuclear reactors nor does it have any authority with regard to the condemnation proceedings that a utility might invoke in acquiring property. These are questions which are in the hands of the local authorities and must be resolved between the utility and the local authorities.

The Atomic Energy Commission has not been involved in the activities you describe and has not given any permission. We have not, in fact, received an application from the company for an atomic power plant at Bodega Read.

You may be sure, however, that any application for a nuclear reactor is examined carefully and thoroughly by the Commission's technical staff and by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards with the objective of safeguarding the health and safety of the public. This safety examination includes the several points that you mention and is concerned with safeguard features which are included in the plant for the purpose of protecting the public. In addition, when a license is issued, the Commission maintains continuing authority over the plant, sets radiation standards which must be maintained during operation, and makes inspections to see that its regulations are adhered to.

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Sincerely yours,

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