

Supplemental File

DLR:CTE  
Docket No. 50-205

OCT 15 1963

Miss Rovina Conner  
314 Benjamin Way  
Healdsburg, California

Dear Miss Conner:

This replies to your letter of September 18, 1963 addressed to President Kennedy concerning the nuclear power reactor proposed for construction at Bodega Bay, California.

At the Commission's request, the U. S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, has been conducting a thorough field study of the geology of Bodega Bay since early May. In addition, expert consultants have been retained to assist the AEC regulatory staff in evaluating Pacific Gas & Electric Company's application with respect to the seismology of the area and structural design of the proposed plant. The Coast and Geodetic Survey of the U. S. Department of Commerce also is assisting us in our evaluation of the seismology.

A report dated September 25, 1963 setting forth the results of field work at the site through June 6, 1963 has been submitted to the Atomic Energy Commission by the Department of the Interior. A copy of an AEC public announcement concerning the report is enclosed. You will note that a further geological report has been requested from the Department of the Interior.

Final action on the Pacific Gas & Electric Company application will not be taken until the additional report requested of the Department of the Interior has been received and evaluated. In addition, a construction permit will not be issued unless the Commission, following a public hearing and a decision by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board and consideration of all factors bearing upon safety is convinced that the facility can be constructed and operated at the proposed location without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

Miss Rovina Conne.

- 2 - OCT 15 1963

Also enclosed is a pamphlet which describes the procedures relating to the licensing of power reactors by the Atomic Energy Commission. We are confident that these procedures and their provision for public hearing will enable all interested persons to acquaint themselves with the details of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's proposal and will assure thorough consideration of all aspects of the proposed plant bearing upon the question of whether it can be constructed and operated at the proposed site without undue risk to the health and safety of the public.

It should be noted, however, that such matters as local zoning and the esthetics of the site are matters within local and state jurisdiction and are not within the purview of the Atomic Energy Commission. Concerning your reference to construction activity at the proposed site, enclosed is a copy of the Commission's regulation, 10 CFR Part 50, "Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities." Section 50.10(b) concerns the point which you have raised. That section provides that the construction of a proposed reactor may not begin prior to the issuance of a construction permit by the Atomic Energy Commission. You will note that "construction", as defined in the above cited section, does not include site excavation, construction of roadways, railroad spurs, temporary buildings for use in connection with construction, etc. However, the Commission has pointed out many times that any such site preparation prior to the issuance of a construction permit is undertaken at the applicant's risk and is given no consideration by the Commission in its decision on the application.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed  
by R. Lowenstein.

Robert Lowenstein, Director  
Division of Licensing and  
Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Press Release
- 2. Pamphlet
- 3. 10 CFR Part 50

Distribution:  
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FROM: **William Conner**  
 111 Benjamin Way  
 Healdsburg, Calif.

DATE OF DOCUMENT: **9-28-63**

DATE RECEIVED: **9-25-63**

NO.: **6496**

LTR. **X**

MEMO:

REPORT:

OTHER:

TO: **President Agency (forwarded to DR by Howard Brown)**

ORIG. **X (4 copies)**

CC:

**5 each xeroxed**

OTHER:

ACTION NECESSARY   
 NO ACTION NECESSARY

CONCURRENCE   
 COMMENT

DATE ANSWERED:   
 BY:

FILE CODE: **50-205**

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POST OFFICE

REG. NO.

DESCRIPTION: (Must Be Unclassified)

Ltr. asking that he stop the A.C. from getting AEC permission to build on Federal way.

ENCLOSURES: (1 each rec'd)

Statement by Lt. Gov. Glenn Anderson.... **std 2-13-63**

News clipping on Federal by Don Engdahl

REMARKS: **DR Distributions: 1 - formal file  
 1 - SAN file  
 1 - AEC PDR**

REFERRED TO	DATE	RECEIVED BY	DATE
Edwards:	9-26		
w/sup'l file by - P R ACTION			
H. Price:	9-26		
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Lowenstein:	9-26		
w/extra, for info			

*Cliffed Anderson 11-15-63*  
*Anderson 10-16-63*

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REMARKS:

- For Information
- For appropriate handling
- For preparation of reply for Chairman's signature (Refer to Manual Chapter 0240)
- For discussion at Commissioners' Information Meeting
- For distribution to other Commissioners
- Daily Log

TO:

*DR*

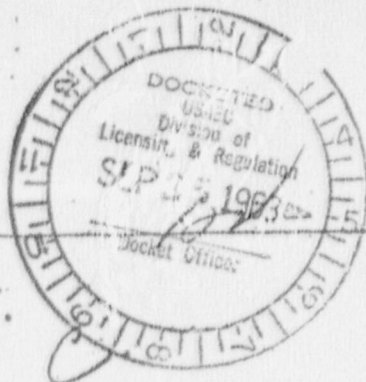
(Date)

**9-24**

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN



Howard C. Brown, Jr.  
 For the Chairman



(suppl)  
L&R File Copy

BUCKET NO. 50-205

814 Benjamin Way  
9/20 Healdsburg, Calif  
Sept 18, 1963

PC  
W  
A.E.

President John F. Kennedy,  
Dear Mr President,

I am writing to ask you help  
in stopping the A.E.C from giving  
permission to the P.G + E to  
install an Atomic Power Plant  
on Bodiga Head on Bodiga  
Bay in Sonoma Co, Calif.

It is our one lovely fishing  
Port on the Sonoma Co Coast  
and has always reminded  
me of a New England Fishing  
Village.

Also it is almost over the  
San Andreas Fault and  
between it & the Johnson Fault.

As I have been in all major  
earthquakes in Calif including  
the 1906 one I know that  
nothing man made can



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stand up in a big earthquake.

Our supervisors the P. U. C. and P. G. & E. have ignored all our pleas for a public hearing.

And the A. E. C. also will not listen to our pleas so now we appeal to you to intervene.

The P. G. & E. are working double shifts to get as much work done as possible before a hearing the A. E. C. says it is going to have in Santa Rosa.

The A. E. C. keeps putting it off, now until December.

We feel so it can say "

The P. G. & E. has spent so much on it now we cannot stop them."

Please Mr. Kennedy will you help us to get an investigation of all the activities. It is all so unjust & is too much to go into here.

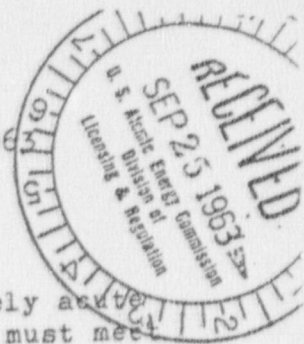
Respectfully Yours

Reverna Kerner

814 Broadway  
Huddellburg, Calif

6494

STATE NT BY LT. GOV. GLENN M. ANDE ON  
ON THE PROPOSED BODEGA HEAD POWER PLANT - AUGUST 13, 1963



California, more than any other state, faces an extremely acute problem in preserving its remaining natural areas. We must meet the great responsibility of insuring adequate and desirable places of unspoiled beauty for the future in the face of a population explosion second to none. It is a dilemma of serious proportion and consequence, and the increasing leisure time available to our society serves only to compound the demand. Careful, thoughtful long range planning at this critical point in our history is therefore a most solemn responsibility.

One of the most charming and unusual areas of natural beauty on California's coastline has been proposed as the site for construction of an atomic reactor to generate electric power. Erection of such a massive facility on Bodega Head will permanently scar one of the nation's truly unique, and particularly appealing, coastal regions.

I must stress that I am entirely in favor of the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy, especially when such projects are designed to meet the tremendous power demands of a prospering State. But great wisdom must be exercised in the selection of sites for such units, and while construction of the proposed nuclear power facility at this location constitutes a threat to the beauty of the area, my concern is equally great in another respect.

Residents and future visitors to this region must not be subject to the fear of a possible calamity from what may be a serious error in judgment. Confronted with a mounting conflict of professional opinion, the question of safety looms very large indeed. We are here presented with a possible construction of a nuclear power unit in close proximity to the San Andreas Fault line.

In the present case the wonderful natural beauty of Bodega Bay is threatened for all time, and the matter of public safety constitutes a most serious, and in my opinion, unresolved question. Common sense dictates that if there is even the slightest risk involved, it is far better to find a location which does not possess the inherent danger of the earth's greatest continental active fault line.

I have written a letter today to Glenn Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, urging the Atomic Energy Commission to withhold issuing a permit for operation of this proposed unit at Bodega Head, asking the Commission to encourage the PG&E to seek a more suitable site along our northern coast.

*Many other of our officials and scientists are against its location & we have been called every kind of name even communists because of it, and all we wish to do is preserve*

Transcribed from KPFA-FM News

6494

Bodega Bay as it was.

Rebecca Conner

814 Benjamin Way

Haldsburg

Calif.

P.S. I am a native Daughter + Love my California  
an hate to see all its choice locations disappear!  
by people like the P.G. + E. when there are other  
places + sites they can use.

# Earthquake Expert Hits Bodega A-Plant iSte

By DON ENGDahl  
P. D. Staff Writer

BERKELEY — An international - known earthquake expert today took sharp issue with Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and termed the proposed Bodega Head reactor site "very poor."

Dr. Pierre Saint-Amand, seismological-geological consultant and head of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station's Astronautical Sciences Division at China Lake, reported he found a "spectacular" earthquake fault on the face of the site excavation.

That alone, Dr. Saint-Amand said, is "sufficient reason" to halt plans for the \$61 million plant; in addition he listed a series of other reasons he concludes the site to be a poor one.

Dr. Saint-Amand's detailed report on the Bodega situation was released today at a press conference called here by the Northern California Association to Preserve Bodega Head & Harbor, PG&E's major opponent in the controversy over the proposed plant.

PG&E's earthquake specialists have reported no evidence of major faults in the plant site, concluded the likelihood of ground movements at the site during an earthquake is "probably quite small" and the rock under the site is the best foundation available on the headland.

Dr. Saint-Amand agrees with PG&E experts that a major earthquake can be expected along the San Andreas Fault zone (which runs within an estimated 1,000 feet of the site) within the plant lifetime.

## Reasons Listed

He goes on to list the other

reasons for his conclusions that it is a "poor" site:

—"Extensive faulting on the head has rendered the rock a poor foundational material. The combination of unstable alluvium (soil) and crushed rock is especially unsuited to heavy construction."

—"The plant is located in the region of permanent distortion or fling—a region where exceptionally high earthquake intensities will develop."

—"The probability of actual fault displacement on or near the site is high. The large fault exposed in the present excavation is of special concern and is itself sufficient reason to discontinue construction. The presence of faults crossing the site of the cooling water tunnel is another serious aspect."

—"The abundant evidence for recent uplift causes concern for the cooling water system because of the possibility of change in elevation of the plant with respect to the water source."

On another major point, Dr. Saint-Amand estimates that the maximum acceleration during a 1906-type earthquake to be expected at the site would be more than one times the force of gravity.

Dr. George W. Housner, PG&E's consulting design specialist, reported he expects accelerations no greater than three-tenths of the force of gravity.

## 'Fling'

Dr. Housner concluded that the location close to the fault zone might actually be better than a site somewhat further away; Dr. Saint-Amand in part agrees but says there is another factor — "fling," or permanent displacement.

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 4)

# er Santa Rosa



# Earthquake Expert Hits Bodega A-plant Site

(Continued from Page 1)

ment which "is at maximum near a fault."

Dr. Saint-Amand says he expects it to be "quite likely that movement (in a major earthquake) may occur on the big fault in the plant site, or on any of the several faults that cross the site of the cooling-water system."

In his report to PG&E, Dr. Housner found "no reason to expect that future slippage should go through the stronger rock formation underlying Bodega Head rather than to continue to be concentrated along the weaker San Andreas fault zone."

Dr. Don Tocher, seismologist, and Dr. William Quaide, geologist, reported to PG&E that they found evidence that there had been no movement on "old minor faults" in the plant site "in the past few thousand years. Lack of recent movements strongly implies, but does not guarantee, that there will be no movements throughout the life-expectancy of a power plant."

As for foundation material, Dr. Saint-Amand says near faults rock foundations "may be as bad or worse" than soil foundations, and "Clearly, the worst possible situation is to build upon a combination of the two."

At Bodega, PG&E says, the reactor itself will be founded on the underlying rock, but associated turbine buildings and other structures will be on other material at the site.

"A worse foundation situation," Dr. Saint-Amand says, "would be difficult to envision."

Dr. Housner says the motions of the alluvial material can be expected to be "essentially the same as the underlying granitics rock."

Dr. Saint-Amand's report, after giving his conclusion of the hazards at the site, finds it "surprising, in view of the expert advice given by Tocher and Quaide, and by Housner, that another site was not chosen and construction has gone ahead. . . . The location on Bodega Head is hazardous from a geological and seismic point of view."

The geological situation at the proposed site is expected to be explored in detail at hearings to be held by the Atomic Energy Commission on an application by PG&E for permission to build the reactor.

The AEC has said the hearings will be held in Santa Rosa, but have not set a date.

PG&E, meanwhile, is sinking a hole on the plant site to expose the material on which it proposes to bed the reactor.