

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

245 Market Street
San Francisco 94106
SUtter 1-4211

C. C. WHELCHER
VICE PRESIDENT - ENGINEERING

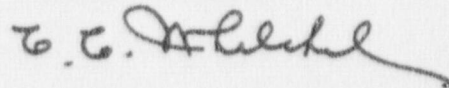
October 30, 1964

Mr. Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Price:

Enclosed is a copy of the release being made to
the press this morning on Bodega.

Sincerely yours,



CCW:ca
Enclosure

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P G and E NEWS BUREAU

245 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 6, CALIF.
TELEPHONE SU 1-4211

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Gas and Electric Company President Robert H. Gerdes announced today that the Company has decided to withdraw its application to the Atomic Energy Commission for the Bodega Bay Atomic plant.

Mr. Gerdes' statement follows:

"We have repeatedly stated that if any reasonable doubt exists about the safety of the proposed Bodega plant, we would not consider going forward with it.

"The Bodega site and the engineering design of the plant were studied extensively and confirmed as safe by eminent consultants in geology, seismology and seismic design. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, an independent group of twelve eminent scientists and engineers established by law to advise the Atomic Energy Commission, came to the same conclusion. We are convinced that these views are sound.

"The regulatory staff of the AEC, however, has recently reported that it has some doubt 'at the present state of our knowledge' about the capability of the structure to withstand the maximum assumed earthquake. Although agreeing that 'the proposed engineering principles appear reasonable,' the Staff has expressed concern over the lack of any experimental or experience proof-test of them.

"The doubt raised by the Staff, although a minority view, is sufficient to cause us to withdraw our application. We would be the last to desire to build a plant with any substantial doubt existing as to public safety.

"We have made provision for adequate electric generating capacity elsewhere to take care of our customers' needs for the several years immediately ahead.

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"Our decision to withdraw the Bodega application does not mean we have lost any confidence whatsoever in nuclear-electric generation. Atomic plants are safe and dependable, as experience in California and elsewhere has shown. Nuclear fuel is plentiful and rapidly is becoming the most economic heat source for power generation. Its application is especially important for meeting the future energy needs of growing California.

"PG&E's purpose remains, as always, to provide our customers with the most efficient, reliable and safe service at the lowest feasible rates. Further development of this important peaceful use of the atom is essential to this objective."

10-30-64

FROM Pacific Gas and Electric Co. G. C. Walchel		CONTROL NUMBER 039	ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE
TO Harold L. Price		DATE OF DOCUMENT 10/30/64	FILE LOCATION
DESCRIPTION Ltr <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Other w/attach.		ACTION PROCESSING DATES Acknowledged _____ Interim Report _____ Final _____	INFORMATIONAL COPY DISTRIBUTION ____ Chairman _____ ADNS _____ COM ____ GM _____ ADA _____ SS ____ Dep. Dir. _____ DGC _____ SLR ____ A.D. _____ RL _____ ML
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H. Price f/mfo	11/3/64	CHAIRMAN	
Cy Cir; Beck		DIRECTOR OF REGULATION	
Mann		(Specify)	
Lowenstein			
Henderson			

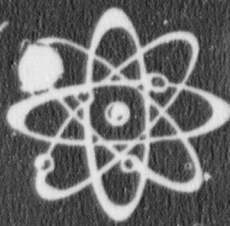
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DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
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U.S. AEC

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U.S. AEC

The logo for the Atomic Energy Commission, featuring the letters 'AEC' in a bold, sans-serif font.

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

No. G-247
Tel. 973-3335 or
973-3446

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, October 27, 1964)

AEC RELEASES TWO REPORTS ON PROPOSED REACTOR AT
BODEGA HEAD, CALIFORNIA

The Atomic Energy Commission today is making public two reports concerning the safety aspects of a nuclear power plant proposed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company at Bodega Head, approximately 50 miles north of San Francisco.

One report is from the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, a group established by law to advise the AEC on safety matters involved in reactor construction and operation. The ACRS has concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed reactor can be constructed and operated at the Bodega Head site without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

The other report, by the Division of Reactor Licensing, has been issued by the AEC Director of Regulation, whose staff makes safety reviews of reactor licensing applications. The Regulatory Staff has concluded that "Bodega Head is not a suitable location for the proposed nuclear power plant at the present state of our knowledge."

Under AEC regulatory procedures, a decision by the Commission on PG&E's application will not be made until after the holding of a public hearing and issuance of an initial decision by a three-member atomic safety and licensing board.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has applied to the Commission for a permit to construct a 325,000 electrical kilowatt boiling water reactor at the south end of Bodega Head, a peninsula separating Bodega harbor from the Pacific Ocean. The proposed reactor site is approximately 1000 feet west of the western edge of the San Andreas fault zone.

The application for a provisional construction permit was made on December 28, 1962. Nine amendments to the application have been received. In addition to information provided

(more)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 20, 1964

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

Subject: REPORT ON BODEGA BAY ATOMIC PARK - UNIT NO. 1

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

At its fifty-fifth meeting on May 7-9, 1964 at Argonne, Illinois, and at its fifty-eighth meeting on October 7-10, 1964, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards again considered the proposal of Pacific Gas & Electric Company to construct and operate a 1008 MW(t) boiling water reactor on Bodega Head north of San Francisco, California. The Committee had the benefit of oral discussion with representatives of the applicant and its consultants, with the AEC Regulatory Staff and its consultants, including staff members of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) and of the reports cited below. Subcommittee meetings were held July 31, 1962 and March 20, 1963 and members of the Committee again visited the excavated site on June 3, 1964. Numerous information meetings were held with the applicant, the AEC Regulatory Staff, and with consultants.

This proposal had been considered at the Committee's forty-seventh meeting and reported on in its letter of April 18, 1963 which stated:

"Tentative exploration indicates that the reactor and turbine buildings will not be located on an active fault line. The Committee believes that if this point is established, the design criteria for the plant are adequate from the standpoint of hazards associated with earthquakes. Careful examination of the quartz-diorite rock below should be made during building excavation, to confirm this point. Furthermore, the Committee suggests that, during design, careful attention should be given to the ability of emergency shutdown systems to operate properly during and subsequent to violent earth shocks, and to the stress effects that might be introduced because the reactor building and the turbine building are to be anchored in different geological formations. The need for earthquake-induced shutdown and isolation of the primary system can be considered at a later time."

Honorable Glenn T. Seaborg

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October 20, 1964

of testing or other experimental verification of structural design features associated with earthquake protection; provisions to assure adequate cooling water in case of damage to normal and emergency supply systems; core behavior during earthquakes; design and tests of critical plant components such as instrumentation, isolation valves, and control rod operating mechanisms to withstand earthquake damage; additional considerations which may be needed if zirconium clad fuel is to be used.

The Committee recognizes that the applicant has accepted very conservative values for earth shear movement, earthquake magnitudes, and tsunami heights as design criteria. These criteria should not be construed as precedents for use elsewhere.

With due consideration being given to the items discussed above, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is of the opinion that the power reactor facility as proposed may be constructed at this site with reasonable assurance that it may be operated without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert Kouts
Chairman

References Attached.