



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 18, 1977

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: NUCLEAR PLANT SECURITY

Dear Dr. Hendrie:

The ACRS has for some time been concerned about certain kinds of detailed information on the design, layout, and operation of nuclear plants that are being made available to the public, and it believes that this practice makes difficult, and in some cases may negate, the efforts being made by the NRC and by licensees to protect nuclear plants against sabotage.

In this regard, the Committee notes the recent actions by the ASLB and the ASLAB to make the Security Plan for the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Station available for review by both an attorney and a qualified expert in the service of an intervenor. The Board states:* "Under current rules, security plans are 'deemed to be commercial or financial information' and are subject to disclosure in accordance with provisions governing that type of information (10 C.F.R. §2.79(d))." The Board also stated:** "Security plans for plants such as Diablo Canyon are not classified and under existing regulations may not be treated as such. Security clearances for persons having access to such plans are not at this time required." While the Board suggested that, under existing rules, there may be some limitations that can be imposed such as requiring those requesting information to show necessity for seeing certain details, release of information only to individuals shown to be qualified to review, and willingness to abide by terms of a protective order not to release disclosures, the Committee is not satisfied that these limitations will be adequate in all cases.

The Committee believes that this action, if consummated for the Diablo Canyon Station and if extended to other plants, will reduce severely the ability of licensees to provide adequate protection against sabotage.

* MEMORANDUM AND ORDER, June 9, 1977 (ALAB-410), page 7, line 1,
In the Matter of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

** Ibid, Page 6, line 10.

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In addition, the Committee is greatly concerned at the low level of clearance which allows individuals to have access to the detailed results of nuclear-plant sabotage studies which have been made for the NRC. The Committee recommends that access to sensitive material of this type be restricted to persons with appropriate clearances and a definite need-to-know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Bender".

M. Bender
Chairman