

April 30, 2001

Mr. Eric Greening
c/o New World Baroque Orchestra
P.O. Box 2121
Paso Robles, CA 93447

Dear Mr. Greening:

During the NRC public meeting held in San Luis Obispo, California on March 20, 2001, on the proposed construction of a dry spent fuel storage installation at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, you asked a question regarding the relative safety of such a facility. In response I discussed the NRC's safety goals for nuclear power plants. I committed to provide you additional information on this question by letter.

The NRC's qualitative safety goals for nuclear power plants are as follows:

Individual members of the public should be provided a level of protection from the consequences of nuclear power plant operation such that individuals bear no significant additional risk to life and health.

Societal risks to life and health from nuclear power plant operation should be comparable to or less than the risks of generating electricity by viable competing technologies and should not be a significant addition to other societal risks.

The following quantitative health objectives are used in determining achievement of the above safety goals:

The risk to an average individual in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant of prompt fatalities that might result from reactor accidents should not exceed one-tenth of one percent (0.1 percent) of the sum of prompt fatality risks resulting from other accidents to which members of the U.S. population are generally exposed.

The risk to the population in the area near a nuclear power plant of cancer fatalities that might result from nuclear power plant operation should not exceed one-tenth of one percent (0.1 percent) of the sum of cancer fatality risks resulting from all other causes.

Enclosed is a copy of the *Federal Register* notice which contains a discussion of the development of the Commission's Safety Goals. Note that these goals apply to the operation of the facility as a whole, in this case the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Although a specific risk analysis has not been performed by the NRC for the proposed spent fuel dry storage facility at Diablo Canyon, the staff is confident that the quantitative health objectives will be met, in part due to the rigorous licensing requirements associated with a dry storage facility for spent nuclear fuel.

Mr. Eric Greening

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I hope this information is helpful in addressing the question you asked at the public meeting. If not, or if you have additional questions, please call me at 301-415-1395, or call the NRC Project Manager for the Diablo Canyon dry storage facility, Tim Kobetz, at 301-415-8538.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: *Federal Register*, Part II Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
dated August 21, 1986

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