

July 22, 2004

Mr. Lawrence F. Womack
Vice President, Nuclear Services
Humboldt Bay Power Plant
P.O. Box 56
Avila Beach, CA 93424

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE HUMBOLDT BAY
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION APPLICATION
(TAC NO. L23683)

Dear Mr. Womack:

By letter dated December 15, 2003, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a 10 CFR Part 72 license to build and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant site. On February 2, 2004, the NRC staff notified you that the application contained sufficient information for us to initiate our technical review. In that letter, we also provided you with our initial schedule for the technical review of the application. The NRC staff, with the assistance of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), has completed its initial review of your application and has determined that additional information is required to assess compliance with 10 CFR Part 72.

Enclosed is the staff's request for additional information (RAI), which identifies the information needed for us to continue our review of your ISFSI application. We request that you respond to each item in the RAI. Our initial schedule indicated that the staff expected to issue this RAI by September 3, 2004, but we have been able to accelerate our review. Consequently, your response to the enclosed RAI is now requested by October 4, 2004. Based on these revised dates for issuance of the RAI and your response, the staff has also revised the projected date for issuance of the ISFSI license to July 8, 2005. If you are unable to meet the October 4, 2004, milestone, you must notify us in writing, at least 2 weeks prior to that date, of your new response date and the reasons for the delay. The staff will then assess the impact of the new response date and will issue a revised schedule, as necessary.

We are willing to meet with you to discuss and clarify the enclosed RAI. Based on preliminary discussions with your staff, we have tentatively agreed to a meeting sometime in late August or early September, 2004. A public meeting notice will be issued shortly, when the meeting date and location are finalized.

L. Womack

-2-

Please reference Docket No. 72-27 and TAC No. L23683 in future correspondence related to this licensing action. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1336.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Section
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-27 (50-133)
TAC No. L23683

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc: Mailing List

L. Womack

-2-

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James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
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Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit 3
Docket No. 72-27, 50-133

cc:

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