

August 19, 2005

Edwin Smith, Cultural Liaison
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
27 Bear River Drive
Loleta, California 95551

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE
VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED HUMBOLDT BAY INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL
STORAGE INSTALLATION

Dear Mr. Smith:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff currently is reviewing a license application submitted by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on December 15, 2003, to construct and operate an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) on the site of the Humboldt Bay Power Plant (HBPP) in Humboldt County, California. By letter dated May 27, 2005, the NRC staff requested of the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria information regarding cultural resources in the vicinity of the site for the proposed ISFSI.

By letter dated June 20, 2005, you stated that the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria believes that some of its cultural resources will be adversely impacted by the proposed project (*i.e.*, the construction and operation of the ISFSI). To date, the NRC staff has not been successful in our attempts to contact you to discuss further the Tribe's concerns.

In anticipation of that discussion, the NRC staff herein encloses additional information on the proposed project. In similar discussions with a representative from the Wiyot Tribe (Table Bluff Reservation), the NRC staff recognized that the information provided by the staff in its May 27, 2005 letter was not sufficient for the reader to understand fully the extent of the proposed project. Recognizing that this shortcoming may also have affected the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Lake Rancheria's review of the NRC staff's May 27th request, the staff considers that this information will aid our upcoming discussion.

E. Smith

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I ask that you please contact James Park of my staff upon receipt of this letter. Mr. Park can be reached at (301) 415-5835 or via email at jrp@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott C. Flanders, Deputy Director
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: "Project Information Concerning the Proposed Independent Spent Fuel Storage
Installation, Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Humboldt County, California"

cc M.W. Donaldson, CA SHPO (w/ enclosure)
Attached List (w/o enclosure)

Docket No: 72-27

E. Smith

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Jrp
(Initials)

08/16/05
(Date)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Humboldt Bay Power Plant, Unit 3
Docket Nos. 50-133, 72-27

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