



**Pacific Gas and  
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PG&E Letter DCL-05-116

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-80  
Docket No. 50-323, OL-DPR-82  
Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2  
Response to NRC Request for Information Regarding the California Independent  
System Operator (CAISO) Communications with Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
During the Power Line Outage on August 25, 2005

Dear Commissioners and Staff:

On September 2, 2005, the NRC requested information that addresses questions related to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) communications with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) during a loss of a major western transmission line which occurred on August 25, 2005. PG&E's response to the September 2, 2005, request for information is included in Enclosure 1.

If there are any questions regarding this information, please contact Mr. Stan Ketelsen at (805) 545-4720.

Sincerely,

James R. Becker

kjse/4328/A0645636

Enclosure

cc: Diablo Distribution  
cc/enc: Edgar Bailey, DHS  
Terry W. Jackson, Senior Resident Inspector  
Bruce S. Mallett, Region IV  
Ledyard B. Marsh, NRR  
Girija S. Shukla, NRR

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**Response to NRC Request for Information Regarding the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Communications with Pacific Gas & Electric Company During the Power Line Outage on August 25, 2005**

**Questions received on September 2, 2005:**

**NRC Question 1**

*Did the CAISO issue any warnings on the abnormal conditions for August 25, 2005? If there were any warnings, what were those warnings and when were they issued?*

**PG&E Response**

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) issued a southern California (CA) region Restricted Maintenance Operations Notice, a southern CA region Warning Notice, and a southern CA region Transmission Emergency Notice on August 25, 2005. These notices were not issued to the northern CA region in which Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) is located.

Prior to the grid abnormal conditions on August 25, 2005, the CAISO issued a southern CA region Restricted Maintenance Operations Notice at 11:47 PDT for the period from 11:30 through 20:00. The notice was issued because the CAISO anticipated high loads and temperatures across the southern CA region. During a Restricted Maintenance Operations Notice, work or adjustments may be performed to the power transmission system, system generator, or associated computer control systems, but only after receiving the express permission of the CAISO immediately before disabling equipment or starting work. The southern CA region Restricted Maintenance Operations Notice was cancelled by a notice issued at 20:00.

Also, prior to the grid abnormal conditions on August 25, 2005, the CAISO issued a southern CA region Warning Notice at 13:06 for the period from 13:05 through 20:00. The notice was issued because the CAISO anticipated high loads and temperatures across the southern CA region. During the southern CA region Warning Notice, the CAISO advised maximum conservation efforts but without disruption to employment, commerce, or industrial production. Energy market participants were encouraged to offer additional supplemental energy and ancillary service bids. The southern CA region Warning Notice was cancelled by a notice issued at 20:00.

After the 1000 kV direct current (DC) line of the Pacific DC Intertie transmission line tripped off line, the CAISO issued a southern CA region Transmission Emergency Notice for south of Path 26 at 15:52 for the period from 15:52 through 23:59. The southern CA region Transmission Emergency Notice was cancelled by a notice issued at 17:56.

NRC Question 2

*What type of warnings were directly communicated to Diablo Canyon Power Plants Units 1 and 2 (DCPP)?*

PG&E Response

The CAISO did not issue any warnings to DCPP prior to or during the abnormal conditions on August 25, 2005. Since the line outage was located in the southern CA region and the recovery actions were taken by utilities located in the southern CA region, the CAISO did not issue a Transmission Emergency Notice to the northern CA region in which DCPP is located.

It is noted when a generator frequency decrease was observed at 15:54, the DCPP control room contacted System Operations in the 500 kV yard to determine the cause. At the time, the operator in the 500 kV yard did not observe any abnormalities on the 500 kV system and the cause of the decrease in generator frequency was not immediately known. The operator in the 500 kV yard, after communicating with the PG&E Transmission Operation Center (TOC), contacted the DCPP control room at approximately 16:02 with information that the problem was located in the Southern California Edison area. The cause of the grid disturbance was not known at the time.

NRC Question 3

*Was there any communication with DCPP from the transmission system operator (TSO)/CAISO before or after load shedding was ordered on the grid?*

PG&E Response

The CAISO did not issue any warnings to DCPP prior to or during the abnormal conditions on August 25, 2005 and DCPP did not communicate directly with CAISO. DCPP operations does not communicate directly with the CAISO unless there is a grid emergency which requires action by DCPP. Instead, DCPP Operations communicates with System Operations (TOC or 500 kV yard) or Power Trading, who in turn communicate with CAISO.

NRC Question 4

*Did the communication with the grid operators/CAISO meet your expectations?*

PG&E Response

*The communications with the CAISO met the DCPP expectations. DCPP does not expect direct communication with CAISO unless the grid emergency requires action by DCPP, as described in Operations Policy B-1 guidance.*

NRC Question 5

*Recognizing the significance of the grid transient, what is your assessment regarding the adequacy of the interaction with the TSO/CAISO that you experienced during this event?*

PG&E Response

The interaction with the CAISO during the event is considered to be adequate. Since the event took place in the southern CA region and did not directly impact the northern CA region in which DCPD is located, there was no interaction required with CAISO during the event. Since it is recognized that CAISO needs to concentrate its resources on utilities involved with recovery actions during unplanned events, such as the event that occurred on August 25, 2005, the lack of interaction with the CAISO during the event is considered to be acceptable.