

March 9, 2016

Mr. Ira Schneider, Senior Health Physicist
California Department of Public Health
Radiologic Health Branch
MS-7610
P.O. Box 997414
Sacramento, CA 95899-7414

SUBJECT: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE LICENSE TERMINATION
PLAN FOR HUMBOLDT BAY POWER PLANT UNIT 3 IN HUMBOLDT
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Schneider:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is currently reviewing a request submitted by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), dated May 3, 2013, to amend its NRC operating license (DPR-7) for Unit 3 of its Humboldt Bay Power Plant (HBPP) in Humboldt County, California. This amendment application was submitted for approval of the plan to terminate the operating license. The plan demonstrates that the remaining decommissioning activities, many of which have already been completed, will continue to be performed in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 50 (10 CFR Part 50), Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities. The NRC staff is also reviewing PG&E's amendment request in accordance with the NRC's regulations in 10 CFR Part 51, which implement the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

The NRC staff completed its environmental review of PG&E's amendment request and has drafted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document its findings. The NRC staff concludes in the draft EA that the proposed action (the termination of operating license DPR-7) would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Enclosed is a copy of the draft EA, which is marked as pre-decisional information, for review and comment by State personnel, only. The NRC staff requests that the distribution and use of this document be limited only to State staff involved in the review and comment process. It is further requested that comments be provided to the NRC staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter and its enclosure.

The NRC staff is also conducting a concurrent safety evaluation of the request to amend the license for the HBPP Unit 3 facility, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50. The results of the safety evaluation will be documented in a separate Safety Evaluation Report.

The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance. Concurrent with the issuance of the final EA, the NRC staff plans to forward its Finding of No Significant Impact for publication in the Federal Register.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

If you or your staff has any specific questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Bjornsen of my staff, via email at: Alan.Bjornsen@nrc.gov or by telephone at: (301) 415-6925.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Craig G. Erlanger, Acting Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 50-133

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment

I. Schneider

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Craig G. Erlanger, Acting Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment

ADAMS Accession Number: **ML15082A302**

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