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California State Senate

P3.21

GARY K. HART

SENATOR
EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 12, 1984

SERVED JAN 17 1984

Nunzio Palladino, Chair
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

50-275,323

Dear Mr. Palladino:

This letter concerns the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's consideration of a low power license for PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

As the State Senator for Santa Barbara County, which is adjacent to San Luis Obispo County (the site of Diablo Canyon), I am naturally concerned about NRC assurance of safety at this facility. Recently I have learned of numerous allegations by present and former workers at Diablo Canyon of potential safety problems related to the construction of the plant. Coming on the heels of the revelations about design errors, these allegations further shake the confidence of many of us who live in the area.

If nuclear power is to have any future in this country, it is incumbent upon the NRC to vigorously investigate any and all allegations of safety problems before even considering licensure. I am well aware of the very real economic pressures to proceed with this project. However, precipitous action on licensure will be counterproductive and possibly disastrous if safety problems do exist. Licensing of Diablo Canyon at this time, even for low power operations only, could very well destroy the NRC's credibility with California residents if subsequent events show that less than thorough attention was given to safety issues.

Of even greater significance, however, is the responsibility which you have to all of us who live and raise our families in this area. While you may feel that the lengthy proceedings and investigations which have already occurred warrant licensure, I want to assure you that the amount of time and resources you have devoted to this case will not matter one iota if safety problems arise and threaten the residents of the area.

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Nunzio Palladino
January 12, 1984
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In conclusion, I implore you to thoroughly investigate all allegations of poor construction, safety problems, and quality control problems at Diablo Canyon before proceeding further with licensure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary Hart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

GARY K. HART

GKH:jc:ms