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# Assembly California Legislature

64-16 P3:21

Jack O'Connell  
ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 11, 1984

SERVED JAN 10 1984

Mr. Nunzio Palladino  
Chairman, United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

DOCUMENT NUMBER 50-275,323  
PROCESSING DATE 1/11/84

Dear Chairman Palladino:

It has been brought to my attention that within the past three months, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Intervenor in the licensing proceedings for the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant have received more than 100 allegations by plant workers concerning potential safety problems at that plant. These allegations portray a project where quality assurance and quality control have suffered a serious breakdown.

I have been informed that the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant is now ready to operate, and I am concerned that the plant be authorized before a full investigation of these serious allegations is conducted.

I believe it is in the interests of both the public and the NRC to resolve all safety questions at this plant before it is licensed to operate. Given the serious and well-documented nature of many of the allegations, and the fact that they relate to issues which were not uncovered and/or corrected during the course of the two-year design verification program, I am requesting that the NRC complete the following steps before authorizing plant operation:

- 1) The NRC will authorize a complete investigation by its Office of Investigations into the causes of the quality assurance/quality control breakdown at Diablo Canyon, including charges of retaliation against workers who report problems or mistakes, the falsification and destruction of records, and intentional management decisions to violate the Atomic Energy Act.

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2) An independent body will conduct an independent audit of the entire P. G. & E./Bechtel design review, including a provision for a broad public oversight committee.

3) An independent body will conduct a comprehensive quality control re-inspection of all safety-related hardware in the plant.

Particularly in the case of Diablo Canyon, with it's troubled history, I believe the completion of these three steps, and a resolution of the problems they might uncover, to be necessary to assure safe plant operation.

Sincerely,

*Jack O'Connell*  
JACK O'CONNELL

JO:rcw