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PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

PG&E

77 BEALE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104

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January 4, 1984

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PGandE Letter No.: DCL-84-002

Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Commissioner James K. Asselstine✓
Commissioner Frederick M. Bernthal
Commissioner Victor Gilinsky
Commissioner Thomas M. Roberts

Re: Docket No. 50-275, OL-DPR-76
Diablo Canyon Unit 1
Request to Perform Precriticality Hot System Testing,
Achieve Criticality and Conduct Low Power Testing

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

On November 8, 1983, the NRC issued Commission Order CLI-83-27 which authorized PGandE to conduct fuel loading and precriticality testing activities (Step 1) at Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). The Order specifically authorized activities to be performed in accordance with the Technical Specification (Appendix A to Operating License DPR-76) requirements for Modes 6 (fuel loading) and 5 (cold system testing). At this time, PGandE has completed fuel loading and cold system testing activities. PGandE anticipates readiness to conduct activities related to Modes 4 and 3 (precriticality hot system testing) by January 15, 1984.

In order to prevent unnecessary delays in the schedule for commercial operation, PGandE requests authorization to conduct precriticality testing activities involving reactor coolant system heatup and hot systems testing at DCPP. Operations and precriticality testing would be conducted in accordance with the Technical Specification requirements for Modes 4 and 3.

Operation in Modes 4 and 3 will permit a detailed inspection of the plant to be conducted at elevated temperatures prior to criticality. This will include the checking of thermal expansion of the piping and equipment and reviewing the various supports, anchors, snubbers, and whip restraints associated with the piping at elevated temperatures.

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PGandE will also be able to complete the planned setting of thermal gaps, restraint clearances and other work that must be finally adjusted for the thermal conditions of the plant. Operation in Modes 4 and 3 will also permit proceeding with additional testing before generating any radioactivity.

If reactor coolant system heatup begins on January 15, PGandE expects the completion of tests in Modes 4 and 3 by January 31. In accordance with this schedule, PGandE will be ready for initial criticality and low power testing on February 1, 1984. PGandE, therefore, also requests authorization to achieve criticality and low power testing on or before February 1, 1984.

If initial criticality and low power testing commence on February 1, 1984, PGandE expects to be ready for power ascension on March 3, 1984.

A timely decision in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

G. A. Maneatis
Executive Vice President
Facilities & Electric
Resources Development

cc: D. G. Eisenhut
G. W. Knighton
H. E. Schierling
Service List

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY)
)
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant,)
Units 1 and 2)
_____)

Docket No. 50-275
Docket No. 50-323

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The foregoing document(s) of Pacific Gas and Electric Company has (have) been served today on the following by deposit in the United States mail, properly stamped and addressed:

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Washington DC 20555

Chairman
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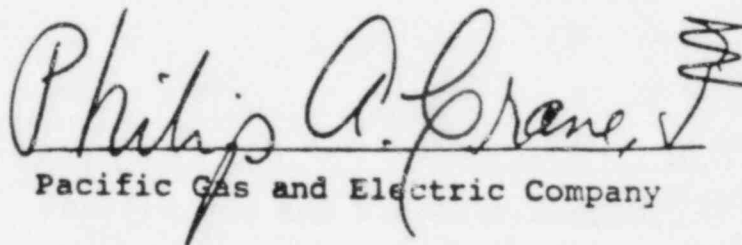
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* Has received copy by courier

Note: Courier copy also to

DG Eisenhut
GW Knighton
HE Schierling

Date: May 31, 1983


Philip A. Grane
Pacific Gas and Electric Company