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January 6, 1984

Nunzio Palladino, Chairman  
Victor Gilinsky, Commissioner  
Thomas Roberts, Commissioner  
James Asselstine, Commissioner  
Frederick Bernthal, Commissioner  
United States Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: In the Matter of Pacific Gas and Electric  
Company (Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant,  
Units 1 and 2), Nos. 50-2750L, 50-3730L

Dear Chairman Palladino and Members of the Commission:

On January 4, 1984, the NRC Staff issued SSER 21, regarding the status of the Staff's review of numerous allegations pertaining to the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. In § 3.4 of the report, the Staff states that four general areas of concern have arisen thus far that demand further review prior to a Staff recommendation regarding low power licensing. Those areas are (1) small bore piping design adequacy, (2) inspector certification, (3) design change issuance and control, and (4) anchor bolt design margins and installation. The Staff now estimates that its "preliminary assessment" of these topics will not be completed until January 18, 1984.

In light of this development, the Commission briefing now scheduled for January 17, 1984 is premature. Not only will the Staff not have completed its review of concededly relevant and significant aspects of the design and construction of Diablo Canyon, none of the other parties to the proceeding will have had an opportunity to review the Staff's findings. Under the

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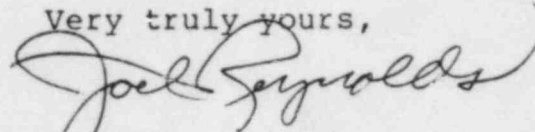
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United States Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
January 6, 1984  
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circumstances, therefore, we believe that the briefing should be rescheduled for a date after the Staff has issued its report and the other parties have had an opportunity to assess the Staff's conclusions. Such a postponement would not only be consistent with the Staff's schedule, but would obviate the need to hold an additional briefing to consider the Staff's supplemental assessment.

As the Commission is aware, Congressman Udall has scheduled a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment on January 24, 1984 to discuss the Diablo Canyon proceeding. It may be convenient, therefore, to reschedule the January 17 meeting for a date during that following week.

Very truly yours,



Joel R. Reynolds  
Counsel to the  
Joint Intervenors

JRR:cc  
cc: Diablo Canyon Service List