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93401

September 1, 1984

Honorable Lando Zech
Commissioner

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USNRC

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Dear Commissioner Zech:

I attended the August 30, 1984 Congressional hearing here in San Luis Obispo. As a result, I am writing to request your leadership in the Diablo case. At the hearing, I sat for hours listening to all sides of the issues, including Commissioner Asselstine's. Commissioner Asselstine's testimony makes it apparent that the NRC staff's performance at Diablo Canyon to date has been less than satisfactory. This type of negative impression can only serve to further alienate the general public against the NRC, and therefore the nuclear industry. I know, from our common background, that a lot of the practices identified during the hearing would never be tolerated by a man possessing your respect for the safety-first attitude of the Navy nuclear program. I know as a boat commander and a Naval Nuclear Officer you would have keelhaunched any man in your crew guilty of these acts of negligence.

I know the NRC has lost respect in the San Luis Obispo area. This loss extends even to the workers at the plant. They make this apparent by searching me out and requesting that I be their emissary to the NRC. They don't trust the NRC. There is not a week that goes by that I'm not approached by a concerned and sometimes frightened worker. I continue to endorse their dealing with the Office of Investigations (Ron Meeks in particular) and normally am successful in eventually convincing the individual to contact Mr. Meeks. In my opinion, the reasons for this problem are as follows:

1.) Region five (RV) has sacrificed its allegation management program. Poor communications with the allegor often results in a misconception of the individual's concerns. To make matters worse, they almost never follow-up with the allegor to keep him informed, or to gain new information. I know this, because the allegors and I stay in continuous contact. RV normally takes their statement, writes their interpretation of the allegations and then publishes a report on the allegation without ever seeing or talking to the individual again.

2.) In the process of pursuing the allegations as they interpret them, RV consistently discloses the allegor's identity after they promise confidentiality. They do it by turning

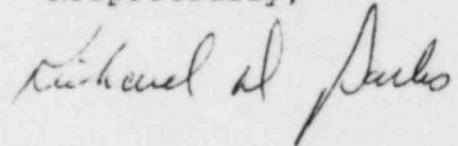
the allegeders' affidavits over to the utility for denial, instead of conducting independent inspections as required. Although the names are whited-out the details often lead right back to the allegeder who had raised the same problems on-site. Since the NRC staff won't even process allegations without all the identifying details, this leaves would-be witnesses with an unacceptable choice--be ignored or be identified. With most allegeders, being identified is their single greatest fear. The staff's policies have resulted in intense pressure and heightened paranoia on the part of allegeders. I cannot stress to you how callous R V staff is in handling allegeders' identities and their concerns.

These are not the only problems that exist out here, but are the two that need be addressed as soon as possible. When I accompanied you on the plant tour at Diablo you stated you would give my suggestions on allegation management serious thought. I hope and trust you have. It is only because of concern for the industry that I have made what I feel are suggestions to help alleviate a bad situation.

I feel you could improve the situation by requesting that Mr. Yin be assigned as a technical liason to work with Ron Meeks of OI on the Diablo Investigation. Ron has a lot of respect in this area, and I have confidence in his character and competence. By teaming Mr. Yin with Ron Meeks, no one could challenge the team's report or results. There could finally be the definitive "exhaustive" investigation about which PG&E continues to boast and in which no one believes.

Sir, I hope you consider my suggestions seriously. I feel that if something is not done soon the morass will only worsen. Neither the NRC nor the industry can suffer much more, and the mess at Diablo Canyon worsens with each passing day. Again, Admiral, I wish to thank you for the credence you bring to the NRC. I know your record is one of running a tight, safe ship.

Respectfully,



cc: Commissioners