

May 1, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: David Terao, Chief  
Plant Licensing Branch IV  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Alan B. Wang, Project Manager */RA/*  
Plant Licensing Branch IV  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MARCH 16, 2006, MEETING WITH PACIFIC GAS AND  
ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E) ON DIGITAL UPGRADE PROJECT  
(TAC NOS. MD0385 and MD0386)

On March 16, 2006, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a meeting with PG&E to discuss a digital upgrade project for Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 (DCPP). This meeting had an open and closed session.

PG&E stated that it had proposed this meeting to start a dialog with the NRC staff to discuss its digital upgrade project for the DCPP. PG&E wanted to establish some lines of communication with the staff on this future upgrade. Allen Howe stated that the NRC agreed to this meeting to gather information about PG&E's digital upgrade project and that no decisions about the scope or acceptability of the project would be made as a result of this meeting.

PG&E explained the need for the upgrade and its long-term strategy. PG&E noted that this would be a hybrid system for a time during installation. There are too many systems affected for them all to be changed in a single outage, and, therefore, there will be a transitional period wherein some but not all of the new equipment will be installed. There would be some limited technical specification changes required. The amendment for these changes is scheduled to be submitted in July 2007. The replacement is currently scheduled for the fall of 2009 for Unit 2 and 2010 for Unit 1. However, PG&E stated that NRC acceptance of the proposed architecture is needed before detailed design would start. PG&E is investigating various options for accomplishing this NRC review. PG&E is considering submitting a plant-specific Topical Report or an unreviewed safety question amendment for this purpose. PG&E has proposed to have a technical discussion of the proposed changes onsite this summer when more detail of the digital upgrade project has been defined.

The NRC staff indicated concern over the reduction of protection/control diversity that would result from the proposed use of the same platform design in various protection systems and control systems. The NRC staff also noted that the reduction in the variety of system designs, presented as beneficial from a maintenance and economic standpoint, results in reduced diversity. The NRC staff stated, for example, control and protection systems are typically not subject to common-mode failures, but that the proposed use of the same platform design could introduce the possibility of common-mode failures. Presently, control and protection systems protect safety limits individually. If they are combined and are subject to common-mode

failures, then they will no longer be able to back each other up. The NRC staff pointed out that this reduced diversity could have a negative impact upon the overall level of plant safety. The licensee believes that the consolidation would be benign from a safety standpoint and that this issue will be addressed in its D3 analysis.

The NRC staff thanked the licensee for the presentation and agreed that a followup meeting would be appropriate. Members of the public were not in attendance. A list of attendees is attached. The non-proprietary presentation slides are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under accession number ML060860251.

Enclosure: List of Meeting Attendees

cc w/encl: See next page

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**ACCESSION NO.: ML061070094**

**NRC-001**

OFFICE	NRR/LPL4/PM	NRR/LPL4/LA	NRR/DE/EICB/BC	NRR/LPL4/BC
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DATE	4/28/06	4/27/06	4/26/2006	5/1/06

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**MEETING WITH PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC (PG&E)  
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

**March 16, 2006**

**PG&E**

D. Jacobs  
T. Grozan  
S. Patterson

**Westinghouse**

J. Mauck  
L. Erin

**INVENSYS**

C. Scott  
J. Murray

**Altran**

T. Quinn  
T. Harris  
J. Hefler

**NRC**

A. Howe  
D. Terao  
A. Wang  
M. Waterman  
P. Loeser  
B. Kemper  
S. Arndt  
C. Doult  
P. Rebstock  
J. Bongara  
M. Chiramal

ENCLOSURE

Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

cc:

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