

Group A

FOIA/PA NO: 2014-0484

COPYRIGHT MATERIAL

Description of Copyright Material and date of Copyright:

- 1. Associated Press: “Hearings Planned after call for nuke-plant closure”. August 25, 2014**
- 2. Reuters: U.S. Inspector wanted reactor shut on quake fears – report.” August 25, 2014**
- 3. KSBY: - Report on Diablo Canyon:
<http://tinyurl.com/12kum29>**
- 4. LA Times: “Former Inspector calls for state’s last nuclear plant to be closed.” August 25, 2014**
- 5. Associated Press: “Expert calls for Nuke Plant Closure.” August 25, 2014**

Baca, Bernadette

From: Baldwin, Thomas (DCPP) <TRB1@pge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 9:04 AM
To: Hipschman, Thomas
Subject: FW: AP Article on DCPD Seismic Safety

Release

F 2014-0484

Multiple media updates below FYI

Thomas R Baldwin, P. E.

Regulatory Services Manager
Diablo Canyon & Humboldt Bay Power Plants

(805) 545-4720 (w)
(805) 441-3227 (cell)

From: Jones, Blair
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 8:34 PM
To: Fitzpatrick, Tim; Bedwell, Ed; Post, Jennifer (Law); Halpin, Ed; Klimczak, Richard; Ferre, Kent S; Nishenko, Stuart; Summy, Jeff; Jahangir, Nozar; Lavinson, Melissa A; Hogle, Jessica; Kauss, Kent; Krausse, Mark
Cc: Stephens, Keith; Jones, Thomas P.; Cuddy, Thomas
Subject: RE: AP Article on DCPD Seismic Safety

Release

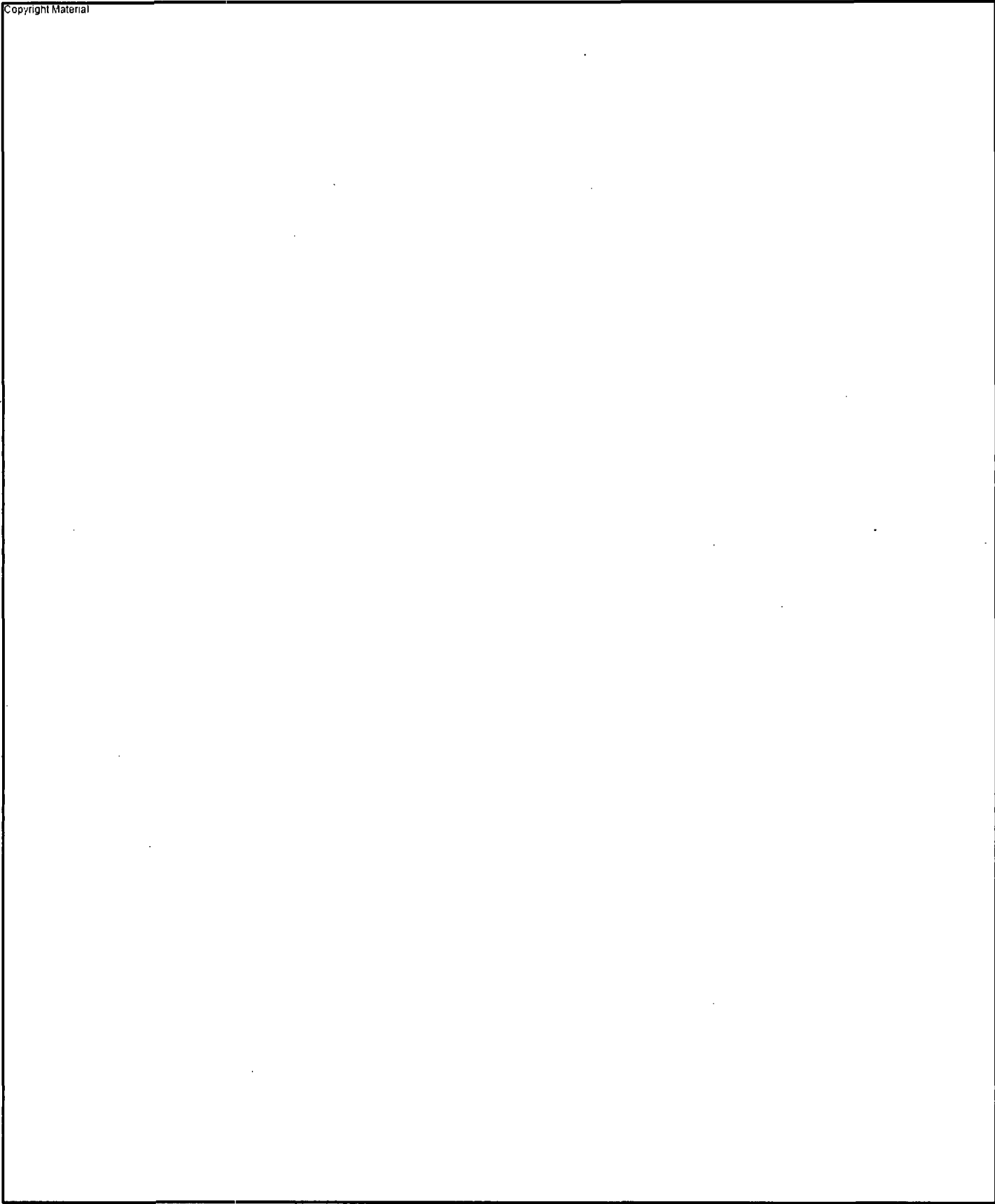
All,

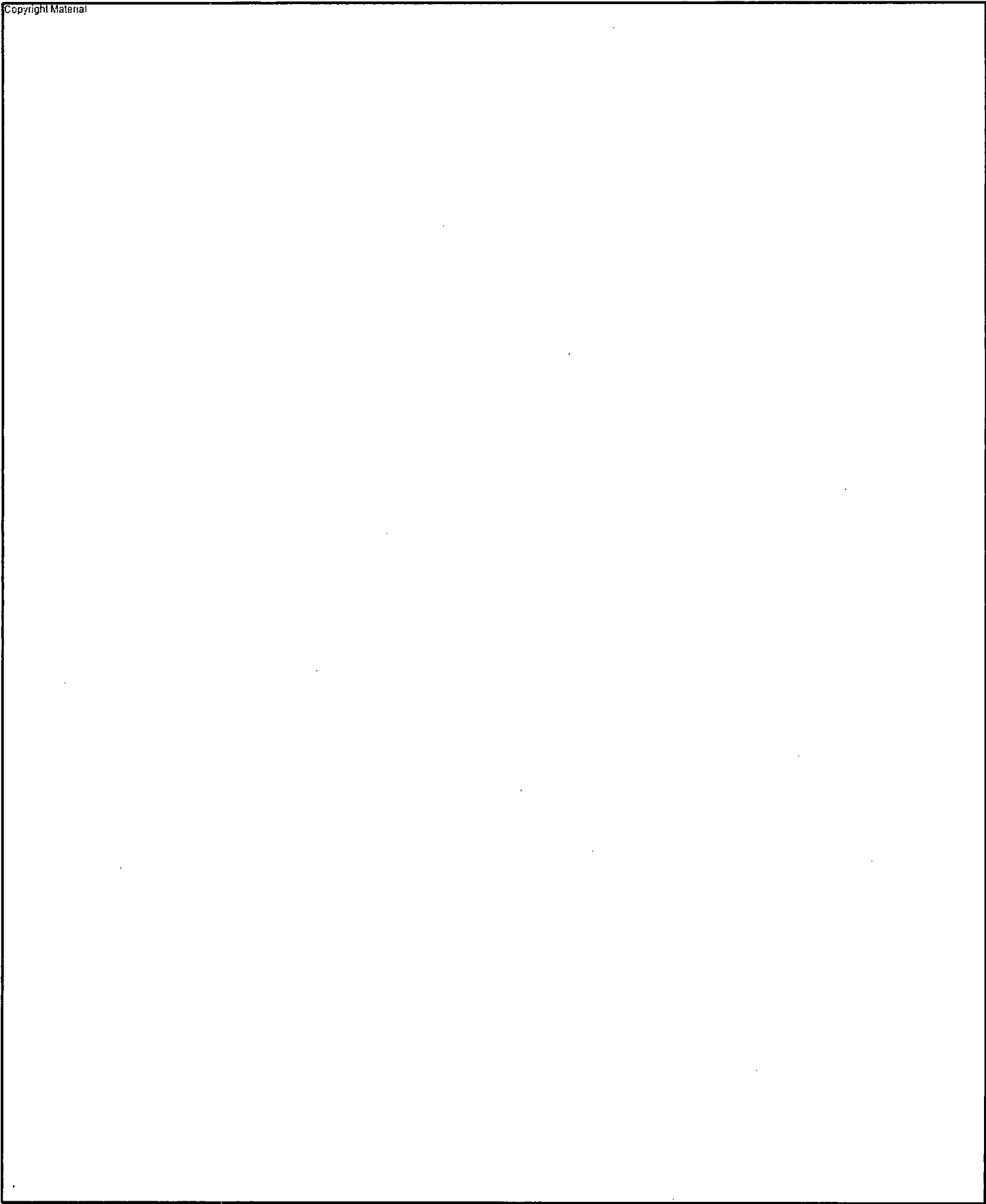
The AP has updated their story to include that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold hearings on NRC oversight and how the NRC has handled Peck's recommendation. Highlights capture that passage below.

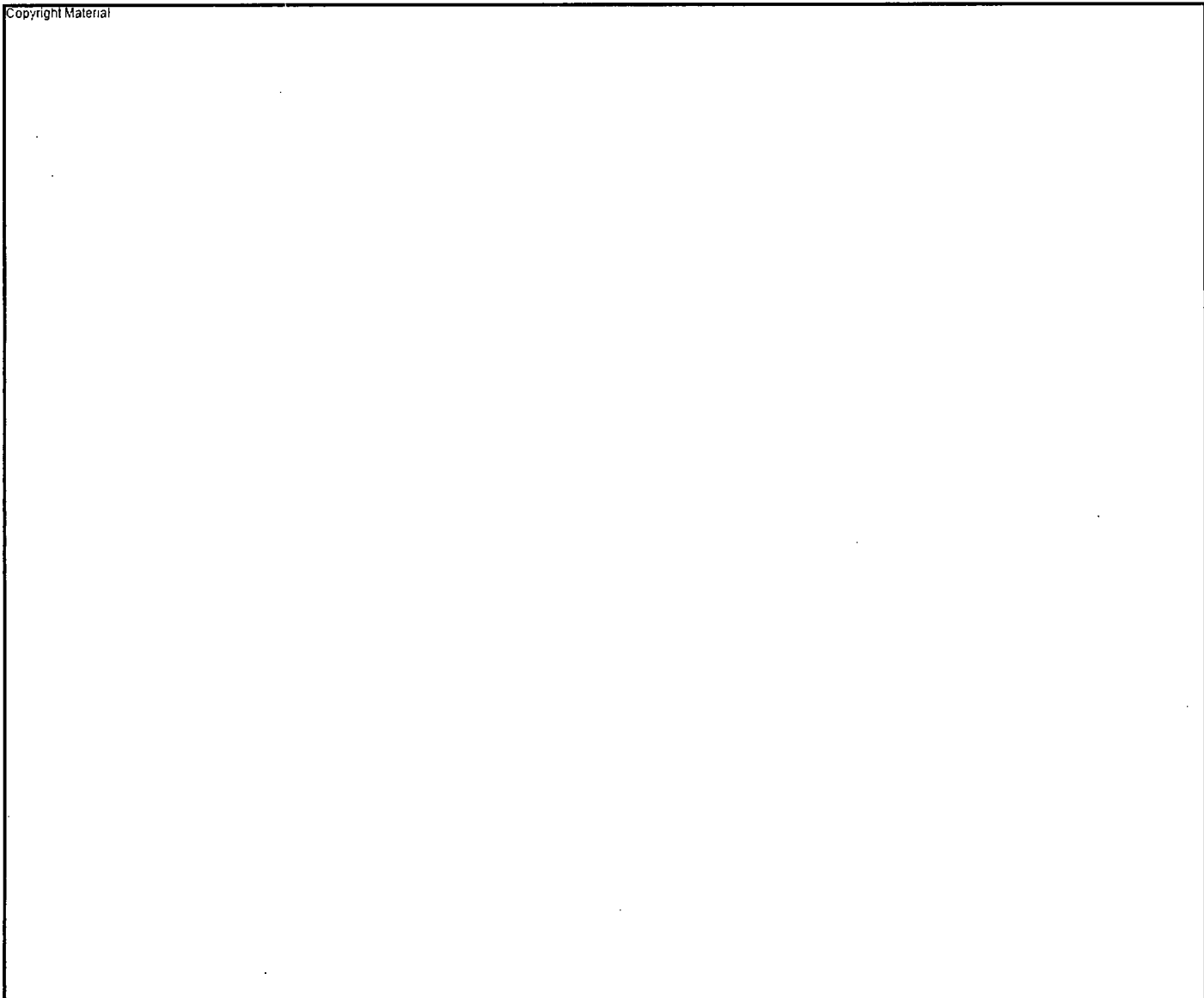
Also, Reuters has posted their story, which includes NRC response, our response and Friends of the Earth comments. It follows the AP story.

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A-1







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From: Jones, Blair
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 6:11 PM
To: Fitzpatrick, Tim; Bedwell, Ed; Post, Jennifer (Law); Halpin, Ed; Klimczak, Richard; Ferre, Kent S; Nishenko, Stuart; Summy, Jeff; Jahangir, Nozar; Lavinson, Melissa A; Hogle, Jessica; Kauss, Kent; Krausse, Mark
Cc: Stephens, Keith; Jones, Thomas P.; Cuddy, Thomas
Subject: FW: AP Article on DCPD Seismic Safety

Release.

All,

We received 8 media calls today resulting from the AP story. All were asking for our reaction to the article and were provided our approved response. No real push back. I also referred all reporters to the NRC for comment as this is an internal disagreement at the agency.

Local calls included:

- SLO Tribune
- KSBY-TV
- Santa Barbara Independent

State/National calls included:

- Reuters
- LA Times
- KPCC-AM (LA)
- PowerTalk Fresno Radio
- KPFA-AM (Berkeley)

Also:

- KVEC-AM (San Luis Obispo) had Mothers for Peace on their live call-in show at 3pm. Citizens for Green Nuclear Power called in to the show to counter.
- Citizens for Green Nuclear Power will also be sending letters to the editor to papers to respond to any articles.
- I have asked NEI to blog that the NRC continually evaluates seismic safety, continues to find DCP is safe and use the NRC's Shoreline RIL to counter social media chatter.

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From: Jones, Blair
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 10:11 AM
To: Fitzpatrick, Tim; Bedwell, Ed; Post, Jennifer (Law); Halpin, Ed; Klimczak, Richard; Ferre, Kent S; Nishenko, Stuart; Summy, Jeff; Jahangir, Nozar; Lavinson, Melissa A; Hogle, Jessica; Kauss, Kent; Krausse, Mark
Cc: Stephens, Keith; Jones, Thomas P.; Cuddy, Thomas
Subject: AP Article on DCPD Seismic Safety

Release

All,

The Associated Press has posted the story that examines an internal disagreement over seismic safety at DCPD between the NRC and a former senior resident inspector at the plant.

As we expected, the article focuses on how former inspector Dr. Michael Peck differs with PG&E's and the NRC's analyses of the Shoreline, Los Osos and San Luis Bay faults and whether the plant can withstand earthquakes from these seismic zones. Dr. Peck believes these faults can produce significantly more ground shaking than was used in the plant's design (Double Design Earthquake/Safe Shutdown Earthquake) and that the plant needs to be shut down until it can be demonstrated the facility is safe.

The article captures the NRC's and PG&E's position that DCPD is safe, that the facility complies with its operating license, including earthquake safety standards, and notes our statement that the core issue involving earthquake ground motions was resolved in the late 1970s with seismic retrofitting of the plant.

Next Steps

- As the article focuses on a dispute between the NRC and a former resident inspector -- I am aware that the NRC will post and leverage a blog about this article to reaffirm their position on DCPD seismic safety.
- I have shared the article with our Geosciences team to examine for errors to determine if we need to follow-up with the reporter.
- I have drafted for plant employees a "When Neighbors Ask" document so they are armed with information should family and friends ask about the article. This will run in the daily eConnect.
- I have added state and federal gov rel so they have our approved response and background on the media inquiry should they need it for their interactions. We are also crafting some more background info for them to leverage.
- We are prepared with approved messaging (BELOW) to handle any media inquiries that may result from this article. I have one inquiry from local tv this morning.
- Also, when released, the results of the advanced seismic studies will serve as a good counter to address questions on seismic safety at DCPD.

PG&E Response

Safety has and always will be PG&E's top priority. That's why Diablo Canyon was built with seismic safety in mind and is able to withstand the largest ground motions, or shaking, that could be generated from any of the nearby faults.

The core issue here surrounding the ground motions and the Double Design Earthquake (DDE), which is equivalent to the Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE), is not new and was resolved in the late 1970s with the seismic retrofitting of the plant.

When Diablo Canyon was under construction, the nearby Hosgri fault was discovered. Because the ground motions from the Hosgri fault could exceed the DDE postulated in the plant's operating licenses, prior to commencing operations, Diablo Canyon was retrofitted to withstand the ground motions from the Hosgri fault. That's why Diablo Canyon is a unique facility in the industry in that it is licensed for three earthquake designs: the Design Earthquake, Double Design Earthquake (equivalent to the Safe Shutdown Earthquake), and the Hosgri Earthquake.

Like the Hosgri fault, the ground motions from the Shoreline, San Luis Bay, and Los Osos faults also exceed the DDE, but they are below the Hosgri ground motion levels for which the plant was retrofitted. As a result, the plant is able to withstand the largest ground motions, or shaking, that could be expected to be generated from any of the nearby faults because none exceed the robust Hosgri Earthquake design.

The NRC has exhaustively analyzed and resolved this issue, concluding that PG&E's analysis of the Shoreline Fault, as well as the engineering Prompt Operability Assessment, demonstrated that Diablo Canyon is seismically safe. Looking forward -- the NRC has mandated that all U.S. nuclear power plants update their seismic hazard evaluations. The Diablo

Canyon update is underway and will be informed through extensive and recent seismic research PG&E performed in the area of the plant. The seismic hazard re-evaluation is due to the NRC in March 2015.

Even after this update is performed, PG&E will continue its study of the seismic characteristics of the region to ensure the safety of Diablo Canyon.

Background information on ground motions, Diablo Canyon's earthquake designs and how we evaluate seismic information is provided below:

Knowledge of ground motions is used by engineers to design and evaluate structures to determine if they are seismically safe. Ground motion strength is derived from determining both the magnitude of an earthquake and the distance from a fault line to a specific location. It also depends on natural features, such as whether a structure is built on sturdy bedrock, like Diablo Canyon, or weaker soil, like sand.

Ground motions are measured in terms of g-forces or "gs" (a "g" being one times the force of gravity).

Regarding Diablo Canyon's Earthquake Designs:

- The plant's design is capable of withstanding ground motions, or shaking, of .75 gs from an earthquake on the Hosgri fault. This design is known as the Hosgri Earthquake Design.
- The plant's Double Earthquake Design (also known as the Safe Shutdown Earthquake Design) is rated to withstand ground shaking of .4gs.
- The plant's Design Earthquake is rated to withstand ground shaking of .2gs.

Again, Diablo Canyon is a unique facility in the industry in that it is licensed for three earthquake designs: the Design Earthquake, Double Design Earthquake (equivalent to the Safe Shutdown Earthquake), and the Hosgri Earthquake. Because the Hosgri Earthquake design is the most robust of all the earthquake designs, all seismic information is appropriately compared against the Hosgri Earthquake Design to ensure the facility is safe.

Research has shown that none of the three nearby faults (Shoreline, Los Osos, and San Luis Bay) would produce a level of shaking that would exceed the robust Hosgri design.

Background on seismic safety and research

Diablo Canyon was built to withstand the strongest potential earthquakes in the region. We also maintain a Long Term Seismic Program (LTSP) for Diablo Canyon, which continually assesses seismic safety at the facility. The LTSP is a unique program in the U.S. commercial nuclear power plant industry. It is comprised of a geosciences team of professionals who partner with independent seismic experts on an ongoing basis to evaluate regional geology and global seismic events to ensure the facility remains safe. As a result of this industry-leading program, the region surrounding the plant is one of the most seismically-studied and understood areas in the nation.

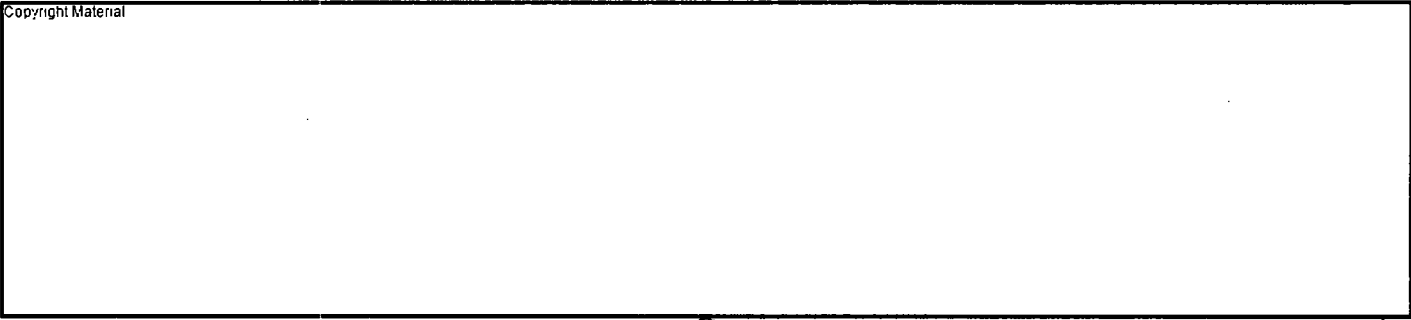
As an electricity generating facility regulated by the NRC, Diablo Canyon is continuously evaluated to ensure it is safe. This includes the ongoing evaluation of the seismic design of the plant. What the NRC has found is that the ground motions from nearby faults are at or below the levels that the plant has been designed and evaluated for. The NRC's findings can be found in their 2012 independent assessment of the Shoreline Fault - Research Information Letter (RIL) 12-01 "Confirmatory Analysis of Seismic Hazard at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant from the Shoreline Fault Zone."

In support of our efforts to continually assess seismic safety at Diablo Canyon, our geosciences team is currently focused on finishing their analysis of recently completed advanced seismic studies performed near the facility. Using state-of-the-art scientific methods, the data derived from PG&E's advanced seismic studies will help further define the level of seismic activity and ground motions that onshore and offshore earthquake faults in the region are capable of producing.

This data will support our Long Term Seismic Program and the new, NRC-mandated seismic hazard re-evaluation required for all U.S. nuclear power plants. Under this process at Diablo Canyon, existing and new seismic information is being peer-reviewed and publically evaluated by independent experts as part of the NRC required Senior Seismic Hazard Analysis Committee (SSHAC) process. The SSHAC process conclusions will be used to update the models that characterize the seismic hazard near Diablo Canyon. The seismic hazard re-evaluation is due to the NRC in March 2015.

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