

# NRC's Gilinsky at Diablo

## *Fuel loading dissenter to check quake safety*

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Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner Victor Gilinsky was scheduled today to view earthquake safety modifications of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

An NRC review team, meanwhile, is completing two weeks of inspections at the nuclear plant.

The team has identified some problems, said Tom Bishop, chief of the NRC's reactor construction branch in Walnut Creek, but it has yet to draw overall conclusions.

He declined to describe the problems and said it is too early to say whether the team's findings could delay Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s plans for low-power testing of the nuclear plant.

"We haven't limited the scope of our evaluation because of their time-frame," Bishop said. "We're taking a methodical, thorough approach to looking at these issues."

The issues being examined by the team include allegations by current and former plant employees of design and construction problems.

Bishop said the team is to prepare a report to help the commission decide whether to authorize low-power tests at the first of the plant's two reactors.

PG&E has loaded fuel in the reactor and is beginning pre-operational tests. PG&E representative Suzanne G. Brown said the company hopes to be ready to start a nuclear reaction and begin low-power tests in mid-January.

The commission's current plans are to meet in early January to hear a report from its staff

and discuss a licensing schedule for the Diablo plant, a commission official said.

The official said the commission is likely to seek assurance that any problems under investigation will not interfere with testing of the plant — not necessarily a final resolution to the problems.

"Getting ends tied up is something you really don't expect to see in your lifetime," he said.

Gilinsky, the commissioner touring the plant today, was the only one of the five board members who did not vote to authorize fuel loading.

He dissented, saying, "I think there are serious questions about some of the basic seismic standards that have been applied to this plant."