

LEON E. PANETTA
16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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MAJORITY REGIONAL WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 11, 1981

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Ms. Rochelle Becker
1037 Ritchie Road
Grover City, California 93433

Dear Ms. Becker:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. I appreciate knowing your views on this important issue.

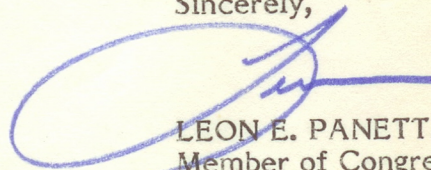
As you may know, I share your concern about the implications of the recent discovery of many errors in the plant's design and construction. Because of my concern about the errors as well as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) actions in following up on their discovery, I urged Congressman Udall, the Chairman of the Interior Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, to hold hearings looking into these issues. I felt it was imperative that a public forum be provided for the many concerns raised by the situation.

I have enclosed a copy of a statement that I made recently in the House summarizing these hearings and the recent history of the Diablo Canyon plant, as well as my own involvement in examining the issues faced at the plant. As you can see, issues regarding the independence of any audit to be performed, the scope of the audit, the suspension or revocation of Diablo's operating license, the responsibility of the NRC to oversee a thorough review of the plant, etc., were all raised at the hearing. Since Chairman Udall allowed me the privilege of sitting with the Subcommittee for the duration of the hearing, I had an opportunity to question witnesses from the NRC, PG&E, the State of California and the intervenors at Diablo, and the Atomic Industrial Forum regarding these issues. I was pleased with the results of the hearing, and felt that the NRC Commissioners' action in suspending the license for Diablo and imposing strict reverification requirements for the seismic safety work done at the plant was commendable.

I hope you find the enclosed comprehensive breakdown of these issues of interest. You can be sure that I will continue to carefully monitor the situation at Diablo, keeping the concerns you have addressed in mind.

Again, thank you for contacting me on this vital issue. Please feel free to let me know if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



LEON E. PANETTA
Member of Congress

LEP/ccg
Enclosure