



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
PRESIDENT

TEL: (415) 703-3703
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October 12, 2012

Mary Shallenberger, Chair
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: CPUC support for CCC to issue permit to PG&E for DCPD seismic studies

Dear Ms Shallenberger and CCC Commissioners:

I am writing to you today to request the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to expeditiously issue the permit to enable Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to perform high energy three-dimensional off-shore seismic surveys for its Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) as proposed to the CCC. It is important that these surveys be completed on schedule and within the authorized budget. Delaying the schedule proposed by PG&E would result in substantial additional costs. In addition, the fall is the only time of the year where the work can be done with minimum impact to marine mammals and the marine environment.

In accordance with PG&E's application to you for a permit, these seismic surveys are scheduled for November – December 2012. PG&E will be using the R/V Langseth, which is owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by Columbia University, to perform these seismic surveys.

As you know, the CPUC created an Independent Peer Review Panel (IPRP) to provide guidance and review the results of these enhanced seismic studies. The IPRP has reviewed PG&E's survey plans on several occasions. It is very important to the CPUC that PG&E remain on schedule and within budget for performing these off-shore seismic surveys. CPUC Decision D.12-09-008, increasing the authorized spending on enhanced seismic studies to \$64 million, was approved by the CPUC on September 13, 2012.

Immediately following PG&E's scheduled off-shore seismic survey, Southern California Edison is scheduling the same boat R/V Langseth to also perform off-shore surveys during December 2012 for its San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The R/V Langseth might not be available to PG&E if the permit from the CCC is delayed until 2013 or later.

In its revised application to the CCC, PG&E proposed the survey to cover one zone, identified as Box 4 in Figure 1-2 of PG&E's application, in off-shore areas north of DCPD in Estero Bay. Seismic surveys of Zones 1 and 2 would be performed by PG&E in 2013, subject to a later application to the

CCC. Performing surveys only in Zone 4 in 2012 would minimize any effects to the marine environment, and is acceptable to our IPRP.

The CPUC strongly encourages and supports the CCC to issue a permit to PG&E now so that the off-shore high energy seismic surveys as proposed by PG&E in Zone 4 can be performed in a timely fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Peevey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael R. Peevey
President

cc: Steve Blank, CCC
Dayna Bocho, CCC
William Burke, CCC
Wendy Mitchell, CCC
Jana Zimmer, CCC
Martha McClure, CCC
Steve Kinsey, CCC
Mark Stone, CCC
Brian Brennan, CCC
Richard Bloom, CCC
Esther Sanchez, CCC

Catherine Sandoval, CPUC
Mark Ferron, CPUC
Michel Florio, CPUC
Timothy Simon, CPUC
Paul Clanon, CPUC
Service List A.10-01-014