- Residents of the area lost approximately $27 million in lost wages, profits and evacuation expenses from during and immediately after TMI's near meltdown.[12]

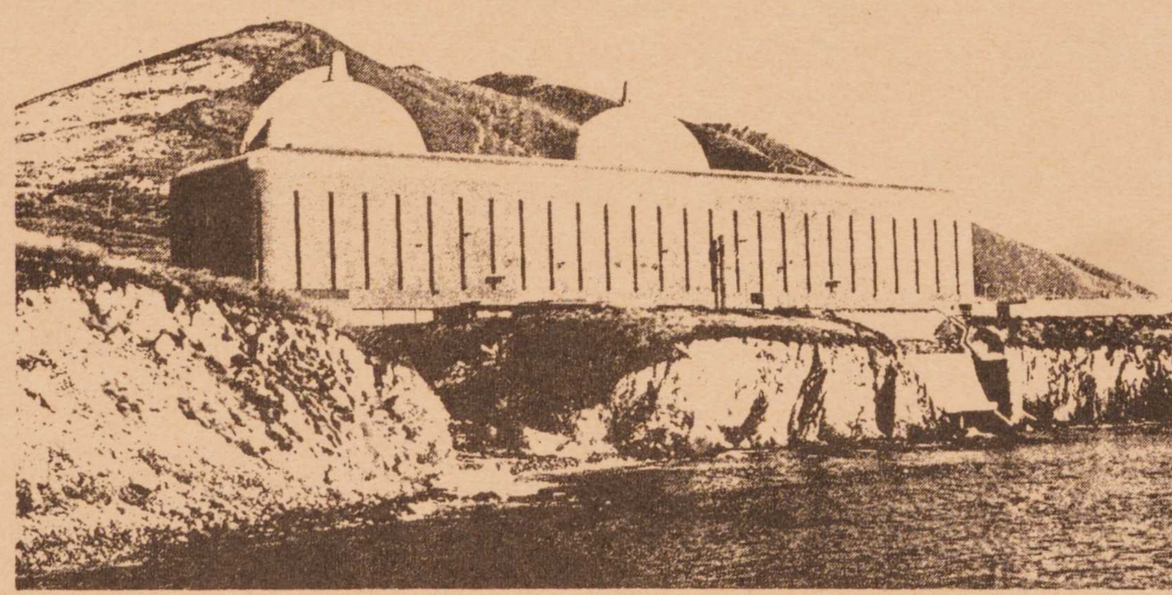
- Since the accident, one of the three utilities that comprise GPU has had rates increase 70%, while rates for the other two have risen approximately 50%.[13]

- GPU insists it must restart the undamaged reactor, despite a 2-1 vote against restart by residents of three surrounding counties.

DIABLO CANYON AND SAFETY: A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS

According to Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), Diablo is the safest and most studied reactor in history. Yet, it has been plagued by a steady stream of design and construction problems (see our leaflet on "Construction and Design Flaws at Diablo Canyon") that call into serious question the integrity of the plant. Even NRC chairman Nunzio Palladino, who voted to grant Diablo's license in September 1981, has been highly critical of PG&E. He claims that he "took better care of his notes while on the Penn State eningeering faculty than PG&E had of some important Diablo design documents."[14]

Despite the discovery of of over 290 design problems and the subsequent suspension of PG&E's license to operate Diablo, the NRC-ordered audits have concerned themselves almost entirely with looking at documents, while limited physical inspection of the plant has taken place. A complete design and physical review has never occurred. The NRC has allowed PG&E to conduct its own investigations into some of the outstanding design problems at the plant. As at Zimmer, "the company responsible for lack of quality assurance was responsible for locating and correcting its own violations while construction of the plant continued."[15] And, in spite of his November 8, 1982 statement that PG&E emphasized scheduling over quality and safety, three weeks later Palladino (and the four other NRC commissioners) approved the utility's plan to vote on March 31 on whether to begin fuel loading. If the vote favors the utility, fuel loading can begin two weeks before the final audit report dealing with seismic safety issues is scheduled to be submitted. Both PG&E and the NRC claim they have made changes; however, they continue to demonstrate that they are much more concerned with early licensing than with a thorough review of safety problems at Diablo Canyon.



PG&E's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is the only nuclear facility ever to have its low power test license suspended by the NRC.

NOTES

1 Critical Mass Energy Journal (CMEJ), July 15-August 15, 1982, p.6.
2 Los Angeles Herald Examiner, August 19, 1982.
3 CMEJ, January-February, 1982, p.7.
4 San Francisco Chronicle, December 17, 1982, p. 38.
5 Courtroom testimony, San Luis Obispo Municipal Court, May 1982.
6 Los Angeles Times, June 6, 1982, Part IV, p. 2.
7 Not Man Apart, October 1982, p.17.
8 CMEJ, November 1982, p.5.
9 CMEJ, September 1982, p.5.
10 Northern Sun News, December/January 1982-83, p.9.
11 Wasserman and Solomon, Killing Our Own, Delta Books 1982, pp. 257 and 258.
12 CMEJ, July 15-August 15, 1982, p.6.
13 Personal Communication, Randy King, Public Interest Research Center, Harrisburg, PA, January 4, 1983.
14 Los Angeles Times, June 6, 1982, Part IV, p.2.
15 Not Man Apart, October 1982, p.16.

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