

From: Kersten, Colette
Sent: 8/18/2011 3:04:09 PM
To: Dietz, Sidney (/O=PG&E/OU=Corporate/cn=Recipients/cn=SBD4); Hughes, John (Reg Rel) (/O=PG&E/OU=Corporate/cn=Recipients/cn=J8HS)
Cc: Jacobson, Erik B (RegRel) (/O=PG&E/OU=Corporate/cn=Recipients/cn=EBJ1); Sandoval, Catherine J.K. (catherine.sandoval@cpuc.ca.gov); Katague, Ditas (ditas.katague@cpuc.ca.gov)
Bcc:
Subject: Follow Up to Diablo Canyon Tour/Thanks from Commissioner Sandoval and Energy Advisor Colette Kersten

Hi Sid and John,

Thanks so much for facilitating an excellent tour of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. Both Commissioner Sandoval and I appreciated learning more about what positive steps PG&E is taking to ensure safety that goes "beyond design" specifications! I personally was impressed with the simulation and extensive tour of the protected areas including turbine deck and control room and dry cask storage. Special thanks to the Diablo Canyon management and staff who took time out of their busy day to answer questions and provide some perspective about "lessons learned" you are applying post Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident!

Following up some comments that Commissioner Sandoval made today at today's Commission meeting, I would like to know to what extent nuclear safety planning includes not only consideration of "concurrent events" (e.g. seismic/tsunami/flood/fire) but also "outside events" such as increasing incidence of solar flares that can set off electrical surges that damage transformers and other equipment in the electrical grid.

For more information about the threat of solar storms, see the attached August 13, 2011 SJ Mercury News article on this issue that has been coined "Space Weather Katrina":

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_18678275?nclick_check=1

As the "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century" (USNRC, July 12, 2011) states, "A catastrophic natural disaster would create additional challenges beyond those routinely experienced by state and local emergency planners." (page 58).

Look forward to hearing from you and staying touch with you as reactor safety and emergency preparedness plans progress.

Best Regards,

Colette

Colette Kersten, D.P.A.
Energy Advisor, Office of Commissioner Catherine J. K. Sandoval
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
Room 5204
San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 703-5147 (work)
(925) 209-4142 (cell)
cek@cpuc.ca.gov