



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 1, 2015

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington, DC 20001-2637

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO REINITIATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING  
PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT,  
UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting an environmental review of the effects of renewing the operating license for Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2 (DCPP). DCPP is located in Avila Beach on the western side of San Luis Obispo County, California and is operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The application for renewal was submitted by PG&E in a letter dated November 23, 2009, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54). Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years, and the license may be renewed for up to 20 years.

The NRC has established that, as part of the environmental review of any nuclear power plant license renewal application, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437, will be prepared under 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environment Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA).

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 51.29, a public scoping process is conducted to determine the scope of the environmental review and aid in the identification of issues to be considered in the SEIS. The scoping process was completed on April 12, 2010. By letter dated May 31, 2011, prior to issuance of the draft SEIS, the NRC delayed all further milestones associated with the environmental review of the DCPP license renewal application to allow PG&E time for the completion of certain seismic studies to address concerns raised during the State of California's Coastal Zone Management Act consistency review. On December 22, 2014, and February 25, 2015, PG&E amended its environmental report to incorporate additional information necessary for the environmental review. On April 29, 2015, the NRC issued a revised schedule for the completion of the DCPP license renewal environmental review.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC will comply with the obligations required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (NHPA) through its NEPA process. The draft SEIS will include analyses of pertinent environmental issues, and in accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), analyses of potential impact to historic properties and other cultural resources.

In the context of NHPA, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effects (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the DCPD site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities specifically related to license renewal may potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest.

The DCPD license renewal application is available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/diablo-canyon.html>.

The NRC expects to publish the draft SEIS in August 2016. A copy of the document will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS, which is scheduled to be issued in May 2017.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC's review of this license renewal application, please contact Russell Chazell, Environmental Scientist, at 301-415-5003 or by e-mail at [Russell.Chazell@nrc.gov](mailto:Russell.Chazell@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA Kevin Folk for/***

David J. Wrona, Chief  
Environmental Review and  
Guidance Update Branch  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-275 and 50-323

Enclosures:

1. Area Map, 50-mile radius
2. Area Map, 6-mile radius
3. DCPD Site Area Map

cc w/encls: Listserv

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\*concurring via email

<b>OFFICE</b>	LA:DLR*	PM:DLR:RPB2	RERB Technical Staff Member	BC:DLR:RERB
<b>NAME</b>	IBetts	MWentzel	RChazell	DWrona (KFolk for)
<b>DATE</b>	6/9/15	6/11/15	6/11/15	7/1/15

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