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Docket: NRC-2009-0552

Notice of Receipt and Availability of Application for Renewal of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant License

Comment On: NRC-2009-0552-0026

Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2; Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

Document: NRC-2009-0552-DRAFT-0071

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-15921

7/1/2015
 80 FR 37664
 77

Submitter Information

Name: Gene Nelson

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General Comment

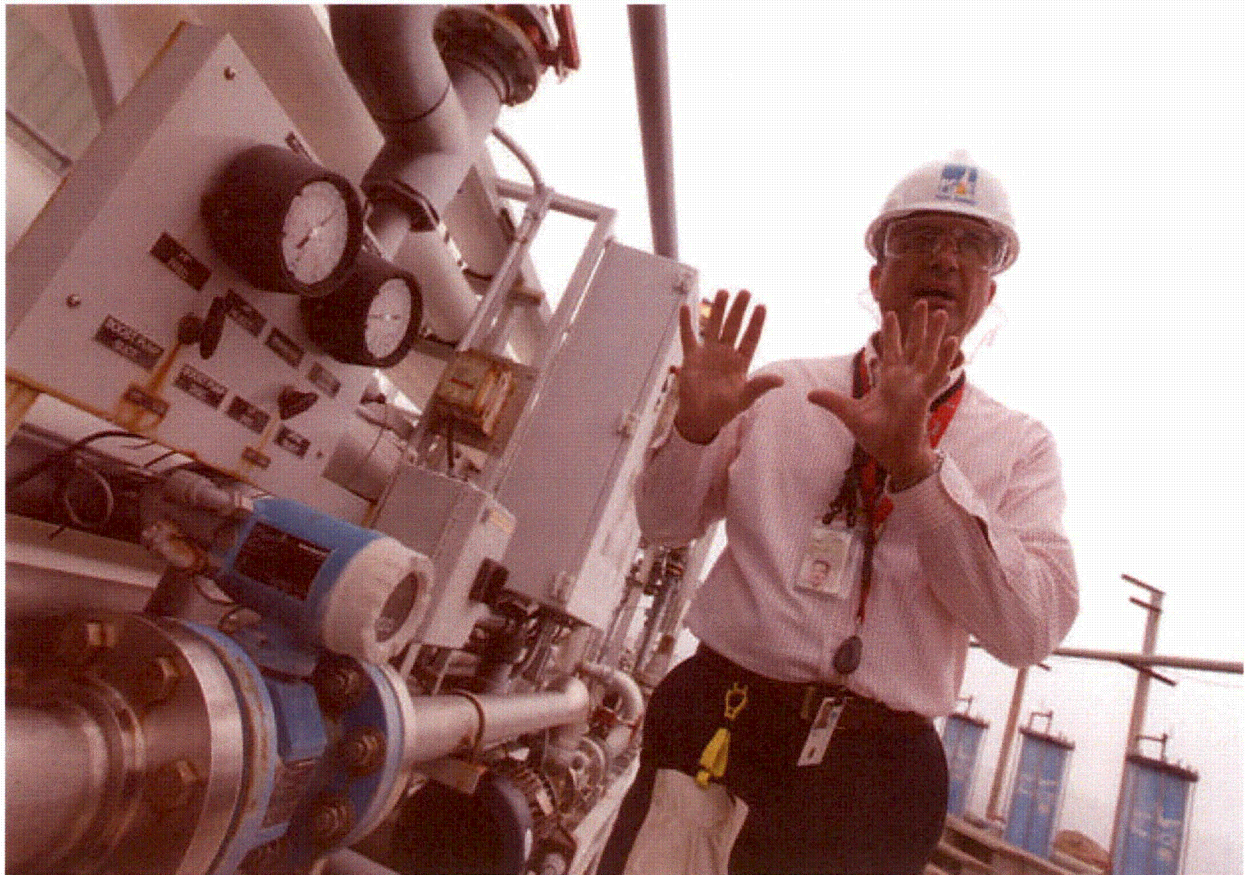
I Gene Nelson, Ph.D. serve as the Government Liaison for Californians for Green Nuclear Power <http://www.CGNP.org>.
 Attached find a relevant file in support of the renewal of the license application for Diablo Canyon Plant, Units 1 and 2.
 The Docket Number is NRC-2009-0552.

Attachments

SLO County hopes to tap Diablo's desal water 08 02 15

SUNSI Review Complete
 Template = ADM - 013
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 Add= *M. Wentzel (mswz)*

SLO County hopes to tap Diablo's desal water



072815Diablo and Desal01.jpg

Daniel Dreifuss, Staff

Tom Jones, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s

director of government relations, explains how Diablo Canyon Power Plant's desalination plant works. San Luis Obispo County and PG&E are working together to explore the possibility of utilizing excess water from the plant as a supplemental source for the county.

August 02, 2015 12:00 am • By [April Charlton](#)

This article was featured as the lead above-the-fold headline article in the 02 August 2015 print edition of the *Santa Maria Times* with the headline, " SLO County eyeing Diablo's desal water."

April Charlton

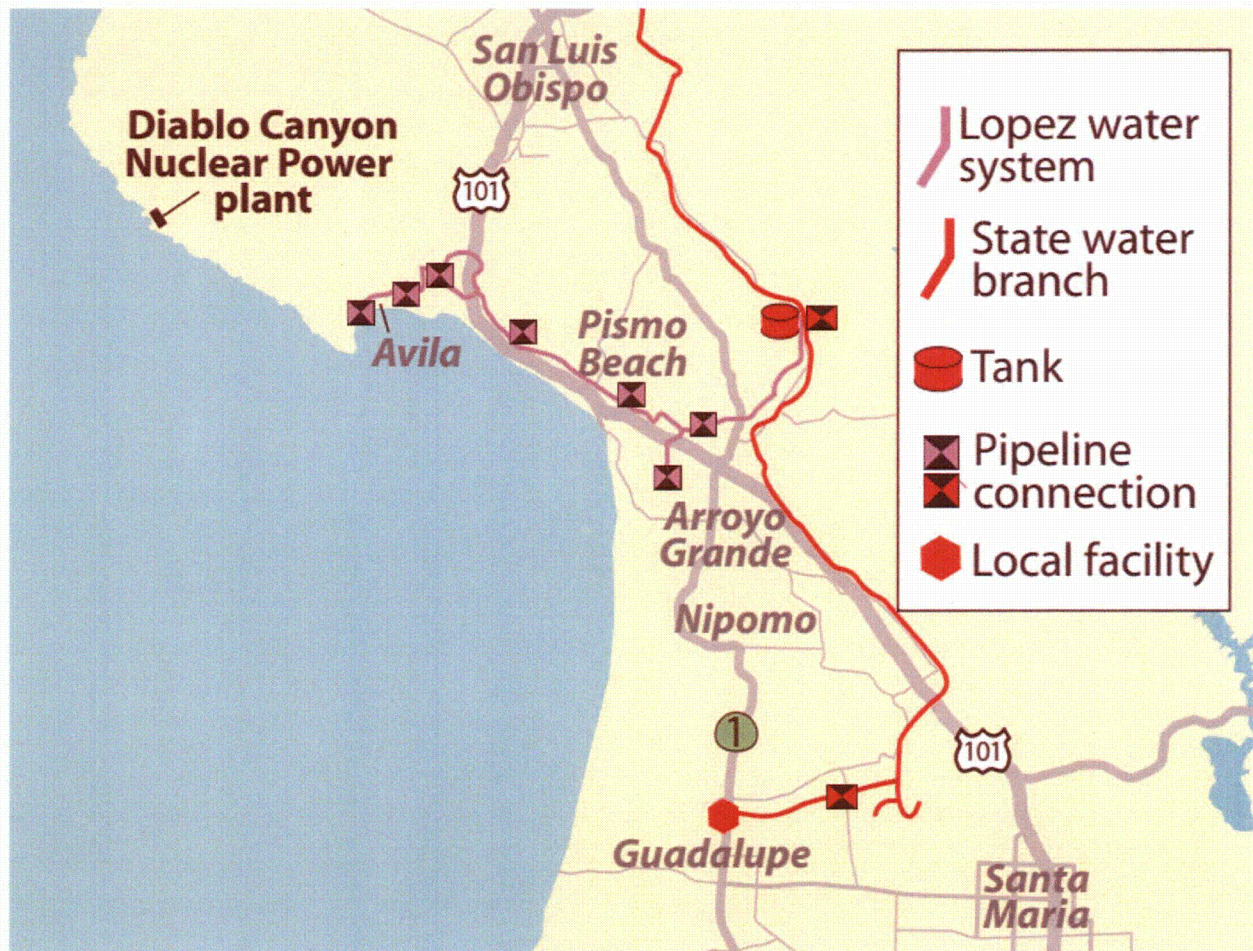


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Related Documents

Water pipelines and connections



As the drought continues to tighten its grip on a parched San Luis Obispo County, the search for a new water source could come to an end just beyond the gates leading to Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

The nuclear power plant that's perched on the bluffs above the Pacific Ocean between Avila Beach and Los Osos is home to the largest desalination plant of its kind on the West Coast.

Desalination is the process of removing salt and minerals from saline water, making it potable.

In operation for the past 30 years, the surprisingly small facility at Diablo Canyon is capable of producing 1.5 million gallons of water a day through desalination and reverse osmosis.

"It's the same process as under people's sinks, just at a much higher pressure," Tom Jones, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s director of government relations, explained during a recent tour of Diablo's desal plant.

PG&E owns and operates Diablo Canyon, and the electric company has been working with the county since May to develop a feasibility study to determine whether it makes sense to construct a roughly 7-mile pipeline from the plant to Avila Beach Drive to move the excess water to the South County.

"This is the only existing source of new water that the community has," Jones said.

Despite its ability to provide up to a million-plus gallons of fresh water daily, PG&E only utilizes about 40 percent of the water that the desal facility can produce. That water is used for cooling the two nuclear reactors at the power plant, as well as supplying all the water used by Diablo Canyon employees at the plant.

County leaders are interested in possibly purchasing the excess, a potential 825,000 gallons, as a supplemental source of water for South County communities, helping to recharge severely depleted groundwater basins south of the Cuesta Grade.

"We've tapped well beyond being able to replenish (the groundwater basin)," 3rd District Supervisor Adam Hill said. "It's critical for us to have another source of water."

A report on the feasibility study is expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at its Aug. 25 meeting.

"There are a lot of things that we have to figure out -- how can we pipe it, what would we do with it and how much would it cost," Hill explained.

If it proves feasible to purchase water from PG&E, county leaders then would have to decide whether to use the resource for replenishing injection wells or treating it for potable uses, and either decision will have to do with expense, Hill said.

It's currently unknown how much expanding Diablo's desal plant would cost or who would be on the hook financially for such a project, nor is it known how much PG&E would charge the county if a desal water agreement is formalized at some time in the future, but none of that is stopping local leaders from pursuing a possible deal.

"There's huge potential with this," 4th District Supervisor Lynn Compton said. "They could potentially supply every home in SLO County with water."

Also in May, the Board of Supervisors approved a five-year water sale agreement with PG&E. Nonpotable water from the nuclear power plant would be made available for public health and safety emergencies, as well as fire suppression in areas such as Cambria, if the need arises.

"It's about helping our community and reaching out," Ed Halpin, PG&E's senior vice president and chief nuclear officer, said. "We know the drought is extreme and saw an opportunity with desal. I don't want to put the cart before the horse, but certainly if it's feasible, we will extend ourselves however we can."

April Charlton covers South San Luis Obispo County for Lee Central Coast Newspapers. Follow her on [Twitter@WordsDawn](#).



Crystal-clear water that has been filtered through Diablo Canyon Power Plant's desalination facility sits in one of two reservoirs above the nuclear plant.



Diablo Canyon Power Plant's desalination filters are shown in this photograph. San Luis Obispo County and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. are working together to explore the possibility of utilizing the plant's excess water as a supplemental source for the county.



San Luis Obispo County and Pacific Gas and Electric Co. are exploring the possibility of using water produced by the nuclear power plant's desalination facility as a supplemental water source for the county.