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Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2; Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

Comment On: NRC-2022-0132-0001

Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2; Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

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Government Agency: San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

Comment by San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace to NRC at July 21

Comment by San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace to NRC at the July 21, 2022 meeting in San Luis Obispo to Discuss Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Plan

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace appreciates the opportunity to address the NRC at this crucial time. We and many other residents of the Central Coast of California object to the multiple betrayals of trust by PG&E, the Governor, the Department of Energy, and the SLO County Board of Supervisors.

In 2016, a settlement agreement was reached between PG&E, labor, and some environmental organizations to shut down the Diablo Canyon reactors by 2025. PG&E stated that it would not seek relicensing. A primary reason given by PG&E for closure was that “as a result of the rapidly changing California energy landscape, Diablo Canyon will not be needed at the end of the license period”.

Following closure approval, PG&E submitted its plans for decommissioning to the NRC. And now, doing a complete flip-flop, PG&E has stated its intent to renege on its promise and apply for federal taxpayer monies to extend operation beyond 2025.

Governor Newsom, who initially urged PG&E to close Diablo at the end of its operating licenses, was quoted in the New York Times in 2019 saying that PG&E has “simply been caught red-handed over and over again, lying, manipulating or misleading the public. They cannot be trusted.” Clearly Newsom can’t be trusted either, as he is now leading the parade to keep Diablo open. He is undermining years of planning by the state’s institutions - the legislature, the Energy Commission and the CPUC - to replace the energy from Diablo with sources producing neither carbon nor nuclear waste.

Compounding the madness, a three-member majority of the SLO County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to Governor Newsom in February of this year asking him to enable continued operations of Diablo. But that Board is the lead agency for decommissioning! How can those of us living in the shadow of this dangerously sited, outdated radioactive dinosaur trust the Supervisors to conscientiously enforce state requirements for environmental clean-up?

And goodness knows we cannot trust PG&E, with its history of falsifying records and blowing up a neighborhood with faulty gas pipelines, with its criminal convictions for burning down towns, and now its hypocrisy of asking the nations’ taxpayers to pay its expenses while it reneges on its commitment to shut down Diablo in 2025.

It’s ironic that this agency comes to San Luis Obispo at this point in time to discuss decommissioning – while so many forces are scheming behind closed doors to extend operations. It’s difficult to focus on decommissioning when the plan is presently being sabotaged by politicians and PG&E is threatening to break its promise to close the plant in 2025.

Mothers for Peace demands that PG&E keep its commitment to close Diablo Canyon as agreed to by multiple parties in 2016.

The public and this community in particular expects the NRC to protect public safety rather than the profits of PG&E or the ambitions of local and state politicians. Mothers for Peace will continue in our fifty-year role as a watch dog of both PG&E and the NRC.

Submitted by Jane Swanson,
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San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace