



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

January 20, 2026

Paula A. Gerfen, Senior Vice President  
and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
P.O. Box 56  
Mail Code 104/6  
Avila Beach, CA 93424

**SUBJECT: DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – NRC EXAMINATION  
REPORT 05000275/2025301 AND 05000323/2025301**

Dear Ms. Gerfen:

On November 7, 2025, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an initial operator license examination at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the examination results and licensing decisions. The preliminary examination results were discussed on November 4, 2025, with Mr. M. Birkel, Director, Nuclear Training and Accreditation. An exit meeting was conducted on December 10, 2025, with Mr. Dan McBride, Director of Nuclear Operations Services, who was provided with the NRC licensing decisions.

The examination included the evaluation of applicants for twelve reactor operator licenses, ten applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and one applicant for an upgrade senior reactor operator license. The license examiners determined that twenty-one of the twenty-three applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued. Issuance for one reactor operator applicant has been deferred pending the completion of specific eligibility requirements. There were no post-examination comments submitted by your staff. The enclosure contains details of this report.

There were no findings identified for this examination.

This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,

*Brian Tindell* Signed by Tindell, Brian  
on 01/20/26

Brian Tindell, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000275, 05000323  
License No. DPR-80, DPR-82

Enclosure:  
Examination Report 05000275/2025301,  
and 05000323/2025301

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DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - NRC EXAMINATION REPORT  
 05000275/2025301; 05000323/2025301 – JANUARY 20, 2026

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 05000275/2025301; 05000323/2025301

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**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Examination Report**

Docket Numbers: 05000275, 05000323

License Numbers: DPR-80, DPR-82

Report Numbers: 05000275/2025301, 05000323/2025301

Enterprise Identifier: L-2025-OLL-0030

Licensee: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Facility: Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

Location: Avila Beach, California

Inspection Dates: October 27, 2025, to November 7, 2025

Inspectors: D. You, Senior Operations Engineer, Chief Examiner  
K. Clayton, Senior Operations Engineer  
N. Hernandez, Senior Operations Engineer  
P. Breidenbach, Operations Engineer  
K. Murphy, Operations Engineer  
R. Williams, Operations Engineer

Approved By: Brian Tindell, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY

Examination Report 05000275/2025301 and 05000323/2025301; October 27 – November 7, 2025; Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2; Initial Operator Licensing Examination Report

The NRC examiners evaluated the competency of twelve applicants for reactor operator licenses, ten applicants for instant senior reactor operator licenses, and one applicant for an upgrade senior reactor operator license at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2.

The licensee developed the examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 12. The written examination was administered by the licensee on November 7, 2025. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on October 27 – November 4, 2025.

The NRC examiners determined that twenty-one of the twenty-three applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued. Issuance of the license for one reactor operator applicant has been deferred pending the completion of specific eligibility requirements.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

None.

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

## REPORT DETAILS

### OTHER ACTIVITIES – INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION

#### .1 License Applications

##### a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed all license applications submitted to ensure each applicant satisfied relevant license eligibility requirements. The NRC examiners also audited four of the license applications in detail to confirm that they accurately reflected the subject applicant's qualifications. This audit focused on the applicants' experience and on-the-job training, including control manipulations that provided significant reactivity changes.

##### b. Findings

No findings were identified.

#### .2 Examination Development

##### a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed integrated examination outlines and draft examinations submitted by the licensee against the requirements of NUREG-1021. The NRC examiners conducted an onsite validation of the operating tests.

##### b. Findings

The NRC examiners provided outline, draft examination and post-validation comments to the licensee. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution prior to examination administration.

The NRC examiners determined the written examinations and operating tests initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination.

#### .3 Operator Knowledge and Performance

##### a. Scope

On November 7, 2025, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all sixteen applicants. The licensee staff graded the written examinations, analyzed the results, and presented their analysis to the NRC on November 17, 2025.

The NRC examination team administered the various portions of the operating tests to all applicants from October 27 – November 4, 2025.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

Twenty-two out of twenty-three passed the written examination. All applicants passed all parts of the operating tests. The final written examinations and post-examination analysis may be accessed in the ADAMS system under the accession numbers noted in the attachment. There were no post-examination comments as indicated in the licensee submittal.

The examination team noted no generic weaknesses associated with applicant performance on the operating tests. Post-examination analysis revealed two generic weaknesses associated with applicant performance on the written examination. Questions 19 and 31 had knowledge weaknesses. These weaknesses were tracked under Notification 51236996, task 26. Copies of all individual examination reports were sent to the facility training manager for evaluation and determination of appropriate remedial training.

.4 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The NRC examiners observed simulator performance regarding plant fidelity during examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

.5 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed examination security for examination development during both the onsite preparation week and examination administration week for compliance with 10 CFR 55.49 and NUREG-1021. Plans for examination security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

## **EXIT MEETINGS AND DEBRIEFS**

### Exit Meeting Summary

The chief examiner presented the preliminary examination results to Mr. M. Birkel, Director, Nuclear Training and Accreditation on November 4, 2025. An exit meeting was conducted on December 10, 2025, between Mr. D. You, chief examiner, and Mr. Dan McBride, Director of Nuclear Operations Services. The licensee did not identify any information or materials used during the examination as proprietary.

## **ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED**

Accession No. ML26012A099- FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS

Accession No. ML26012A085- FINAL OPERATING TEST

Accession No. ML26012A116- POST-EXAMINATION ANALYSIS