

DOCKETED

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Filer:	Danielle Mills
Organization:	Harvey Sherback
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From: Harvey Sherback [<mailto:harveysherback@yahoo.com>]
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California Energy Commission
Commission Members
Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D.
Chairman

February 19, 2015

Hello Chairman Weisenmiller, California Energy Commission Members & Staff,

Thanks for your many efforts in making California a safer place for us and our children. Here are two more "frightening reasons" why it's so important to close the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant as soon as possible. The California coast is far more likely to experience a major earthquake than we previously imagined, and the steel used to construct Diablo's containment system is slowly disintegrating.

In 1906, San Francisco was destroyed by a 7.7 quake which ripped the San Andreas fault for 300 miles north and south of the city. A recent comparison of West Coast earthquakes suggests that seismic activity in the Cascadia Subduction Zone can exceed magnitude 9.0 and may trigger earthquakes on the San Andreas Fault. In addition, this study, performed at Oregon State University in 2008, suggests that our California mega-quakes happen twice as often as previously estimated.

Located just 2½ miles offshore from Diablo Canyon, the Hosgri Fault is a right-lateral strand of the San Andreas Fault System. This fault is thought to be capable of generating major earthquakes, perhaps exceeding magnitude 7.5 on the Richter Scale. Diablo Canyon was originally designed to withstand a magnitude 6.75 earthquake, but it was later upgraded to endure a magnitude 7.5 quake. This leaves us in danger, especially when one considers how the metal used to construct these reactors becomes ever more brittle over time.

Diablo Canyon's two high-pressure containment vessels are made of thick steel. Unfortunately, it's now understood that the flood of neutrinos emanating from the nuclear reaction cause this steel to progressively weaken, undermining the integrity of the cooling system. In the event of an emergency, cold water is injected into the hot vessel. Due to the temperature differential, the containment vessels' brittle steel can become fragile and glass-like. This would be disaster for California!

The idea that nuclear power plants are durable enough to withstand earthquakes and other external shocks is a total myth. The power stored in the combined network of these three fault systems can create an earthquake sufficient to exceed Diablo Canyon's safeguards. It really is time to close Diablo Down!

Headline: Is The 'Big One' Coming? Study Warns Huge 1,000km Long Fault Where Mega-Quake Will Originate Is 'Eerily Quiet'

"The fault zone expected to generate the next 'big one' earthquake has gone silent. Researchers are baffled by the lack of activity on the 800 mile (1,300 kilometers) long Cascadia Fault which stretches from Northern Vancouver Island to Cape Mendocino in California. Experts believe the lack of activity could point to a build up of pressure - which could lead to a massive killer quake." December 4, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2861318/Is-big-one-coming-Study-warns-huge-1-000km-long-fault-megaquake-originate-eerily-quiet.html>

Headline: A Potent Threat Of Major Earthquake Off California's Northern Coast

"Risk of a monster quake and tsunami off California's North Coast is greater than researchers once thought. A giant tsunami created by the quake would wash away coastal towns, destroy U.S. 101 and cause \$70 billion in damage over a large swath of the Pacific coast. More than 100 bridges would be lost, power lines toppled and coastal towns isolated. Residents would have as few as 15 minutes notice to flee to higher ground, and as many as 10,000 would perish." March 12, 2014

<http://articles.latimes.com/2014/mar/12/local/la-me-triple-junction-quakes-20140312>

Harvey Sherback
Berkeley, California