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Re Diablo Canyon

I hope that we find a way to keep Diablo Canyon open. The environmental harm from its use of once through cooling pales before predictions of megadroughts in my lifetime, and of a possible dustbowl CA later this century, and sea level rise. At American Geophysical Union in December, I talked to people with expertise in ice sheet dynamics who told me we expect 1 +/- 0.5 meter sea level rise in the next 84 years, with another 3+ meters from Antarctica who knows when, but it could be this century. I am far more worried about natural gas and other fossil fuels than the harm that could be done by Diablo Canyon with once through cooling.

NRC is responsible for ascertaining that nuclear plants are safe at the maximum ground motion they might see, and as we saw with North Anna, they take that responsibility seriously.

A study from Carnegie Mellon School of Engineering and Public Policy (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/es801437t>) found that the use of intermittents (wind and solar) with natural gas backup leads to GHG emissions of more than 1/5 of what natural gas would have produced itself, more than 125 grams CO₂-eq/kWh when counting life cycle costs of natural gas. There are also air pollution costs—improvements in air pollution are less than improvements in GHG emissions. However, wind and solar satisfy a different niche than baseload nuclear. Solar helps imperfectly with increased demand during the day, and wind helps when we have fossil fuel baseload, as unfortunately, we still do. In their niches, solar and wind are much better than the alternatives. But they don't supply baseload.

Rather than targeted solutions to individual environmental problems, please let us do a more holistic set of solutions to our problems with climate change and environmental damage, including air pollution.