

DOCKETED

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From: Francis Brandt [f.brandt@att.net]
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Subject: Nuclear Power

This is a response to the letter sent to the CEC by Harvey Sherback on 3/17/15, Docket Number: 15 IEPR 12.. I Request that you give it the same distribution and add it to the documentation the same as the subject letter. Please publish it the same on the web as the subject letter. Thank you.

I recently observed in the CEC website a letter by Harvey Sherback on pressure vessel embrittlement at Diablo Canyon.. He is fortunate that the CEC is always trying to find ways to shut down Diablo Canyon so they are happy to receive documentation that supports this..

Unfortunately Sherbeck is a pseudo expert on radiation effects and has many errors in his letter.. Yes neutrons, not neutrinos, can cause problems with pressure vessel steel. As measured by Charpy tests, neutron radiation can cause an increase in the transition temperature where steel can fracture brutally. This temperature never approaches the operating temperature of the reactor so an earthquake which occurs during normal operation is no problem.

He goes on to imply that the safety systems will be affected. This is simply not true. The safety systems are not subject to neutron irradiation.

He then goes into speculation that the plant will fail because the design earthquake is not as great as a possible earthquake. This has nothing to do with radiation effects. He also throws in that cracks have been found in a Belgian reactor. Again not connected with radiation effects.

Yes nuclear reactors have problems but they are not as severe as the problems with wind and solar which he presumably favors as substitutes for the reliable power which nuclear plants deliver with no greenhouse gas.