

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-IEPR-12
Project Title:	Nuclear Power Plants
TN #:	204429
Document Title:	Gene Nelson, Ph.D. Comments: The NRC Reaffirms DCP's Seismic Safety 28 April 2015
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Gene Nelson, Ph.D.
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/29/2015 10:04:16 AM
Docketed Date:	4/29/2015

Comment Received From: Gene Nelson, Ph.D.

Submitted On: 4/29/2015

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The NRC Reaffirms DCP's Seismic Safety 28 April 2015

The 29 April 2015 San Luis Obispo Tribune article regarding the 28 April 2015 NRC hearing involving DCP's seismic safety is attached. The NRC ADAMS number to use in the search box at the top left of the <http://www.NRC.gov> website for the NRC presentation is ML15117A226 and PG&E's presentation is at ML15117A069. Please download from the second web link in the results for each ADAMS search. The article appears on page A3 of the SLO Tribune print edition. Please note the text of my posted comment, which also appears here:

As a Ph.D. physical scientist who teaches in the physical sciences division of Cuesta College, I note that today's PG&E presentation provided a large body of technical information regarding the latest updates regarding Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) seismic safety. I appreciate that since earthquake energy is usually strongly attenuated by the distance between the earthquake rupture and a measurement point, the earthquake forces seen by the compact DCP site are dominated by the short length of the earthquake rupture closest to the plant.

Today's data continue to confirm that DCP can safely withstand any earthquake in the region near DCP with a substantial safety margin. I have seen and touched some of the plant's massive braces inside the turbine building. I've hefted a sample of the wrist-diameter reinforcing steel used in the containment dome at the PG&E Energy Education Center. I know that there are six layers of this reinforcing steel inside the concrete containment dome. I know that one of the safest places to be during an earthquake occurring on any of our local faults would be inside DCP.

Gene Nelson, Ph.D. Government Liaison, Californians For Green Nuclear Power <http://www.CGNP.org>
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Additional submitted attachment is included below.

NRC reaffirms Diablo Canyon's seismic safety

By David Sneed

dsneed@thetribunenews.com April 28, 2015 Updated 4 hours ago

http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/04/28/3608660_nrc-diablo-canyon-earthquake-safety.html



Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant

JOE JOHNSTON — jjohnston@thetribunenews.com During a lengthy discussion with [Pacific Gas and Electric Co.](#) on Tuesday, the federal [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) reaffirmed its determination that [Diablo Canyon](#) nuclear power plant could withstand a powerful earthquake on faults surrounding the plant.

Officials with PG&E and the NRC held a highly technical four-hour discussion about the seismic threat facing Diablo Canyon in the aftermath of the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant disaster in 2011.

The intent of the discussion was to update the NRC on PG&E's efforts to study the extensive system of earthquake faults around the plant and ensure that the plant's vital safety equipment can continue to function if a powerful quake occurs.

"The real question that needs to be answered is what the plant can withstand," said Diane Jackson, a geosciences and geotechnical engineer with the NRC.

No regulatory or policy decisions were made at the meeting, which took place at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, said Nicholas DiFrancesco, with the [Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation](#).

Following the Fukushima accident in Japan, the NRC required that all nuclear power plants in the nation conduct additional safety inspections. In March, PG&E submitted [an interim evaluation](#) of the seismic safety at Diablo Canyon that determined it could withstand a worst-case scenario quake on multiple faults.

This conclusion was [disputed](#) as being overly optimistic by several notable local seismologists including former state Sen. Sam Blakeslee and county Supervisor Bruce Gibson. However, at Tuesday's hearing, the NRC reaffirmed that it is not aware of any significant safety issues at the plant and allowed PG&E to continue its seismic evaluations.

No local anti-nuclear activists attended the meeting, which was easier to watch online, said Jane Swanson with the [San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace](#). Swanson did not have a comment on the hearing.

The NRC has given PG&E several deadlines to meet in order to complete its seismic safety evaluations. By January 2016, PG&E must demonstrate that key pieces of safety equipment, particularly those that ensure the reactors' radioactive core will remain cooled if a powerful earthquake strikes the plant.

Lastly, the utility has until the end of 2020 to complete its seismic risk evaluations. The NRC will then determine if any additional safety actions are required.

Norm Abrahamson, a PG&E seismologist, said Diablo Canyon is surrounded by four significant earthquake faults. The Hosgri Fault, which is about three miles offshore from the plant, is the main one.

"The Los Osos, Shoreline and San Luis Bay faults are also defining faults," he said. "Those dominate the contribution of the seismic hazard at the plant."

The NRC's Jackson said that at Tuesday's meeting PG&E gave the agency the information it was seeking. She said the NRC would expedite its response to PG&E's seismic program.

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