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Nuclear energy is emission-free energy. We all want cleaner air and fewer emissions!

Nuclear power is green, emission-free energy. Diablo Canyon produced 17,000 GWh of clean energy in 2014, more than any other emission-free energy source in California, and did so with high reliability and safety. [1] Let's not make it unnecessarily or overly difficult to keep it open. Diablo Canyon has operated safely in our state since 1985/1986; let's keep our lights on, keep our air clean, and do so with the continued operation of Diablo Canyon.

I'm a California resident. As such, I'm used to paying more for electricity than I did when I lived in Florida and Texas. I'm also well aware of the state's efforts to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles, as my own car required emissions repairs before it would pass the smog check and be registerable in the state of California. I have no issue with California's efforts to clean up our air, so long as it does so in an impactful way. Requiring car owners in California to adhere to strict emissions standards at great expense, while shutting down 20% of our clean electricity generation supply, would seem to be a rather hypocritical and counterproductive action. [1]

On page 238 of the IPER, the text states that "the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California State Lands Commission will be making critical decisions regarding Diablo Canyon's use of once-through cooling and its land leases, respectively". I hope that as they do so, they consider some of the relevant impacts of increasing emissions if Diablo Canyon were to be shut down. Adding the equivalent of 2 million cars to the roads by replacing Diablo Canyon with primarily natural gas (as happened with the shutdown of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in 2013) would certainly have a negative impact on the state's environmental goals. [2]
[3]

On page 238 of the IEPR, CPUC president Michael Picker makes reference to the need to assess "the cost-effectiveness of the license extension for Diablo Canyon considering the plant's reliability and safety especially in light of the plant's geographic location regarding seismic hazards and vulnerability assessments". This assessment should find that for the entirety of its operation, Diablo Canyon has operated safely and in compliance with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's strict requirements for seismic risk assessment, prevention, and mitigation. Seismic risks were thoroughly considered in the design of Diablo Canyon, and the state of California's assessment should find that such risks are very low and more than acceptable.

Diablo Canyon is a critical part of the state's clean energy generation portfolio. Don't make it a political football, or seek to rely on emotions when evaluating its safety and operational record. Keep California green - keep Diablo Canyon open!

Sincerely,
Joshua Richard

References:

1. California Almanac, "In-State Generation by Fuel Type",
http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/electric_generation_capacity.html

2. EIA carbon emissions from natural gas

3. California (State Government Energy) Almanac, 2016

