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Document Title:	April 4, 2018 Letter to Dr. Peter Lam, Chair of DCISC, from Energy Commission Chair Robert B. Weisenmiller
Description:	Re: Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee February 7-8, 2018 Public Meeting, Discussion of a Potential Role for the Committee after Expiration of the Operating Licenses
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April 4, 2018

Dr. Peter Lam, Chair
Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee
Office of the Legal Counsel
857 Cass Street, Suite D
Monterey, California 93940

RE: Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee February 7–8, 2018 Public Meeting,
Discussion of a Potential Role for the Committee after Expiration of the Operating
Licenses

Dear Dr. Lam:

I am the Chair of the California Energy Commission and the State Liaison Officer to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). As an appointee of California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., I am the primary contact between California and the NRC. In my role as the State Liaison Officer, I provide the NRC with information on matters pertinent to California including the state's radiological health, emergency preparedness, California Energy Commission, and California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) actions, and state nuclear safety matters. The Energy Commission is California's primary energy policy and planning agency, with core functions that include evaluating and proposing mitigation for public health, safety, and environmental impacts of proposed thermal power plants, including nuclear reactors. Since the adoption of California Assembly Bill 361 (Achadjian, Chapter 399, Statutes of 2015), the Energy Commission has taken the lead role in assessing the local costs, impacts, and policy issues associated with California's active and decommissioning nuclear power plants along the state's seismically vulnerable coastline.¹ Moreover, in my role as Chair of the Energy Commission, I am responsible for appointing one of the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC) members.

Upon review and consideration of the topics discussed, the supporting document, and public comments made at the DCISC February, 2018 public meeting, I support the proposal by the committee to develop a fully informed recommendation concerning the role of the DCISC through decommissioning.

As identified in the February 2018 public meeting, there are important items that must be considered before Diablo Canyon begins decommissioning. As part of that discussion, a detailed decommissioning recommendation by the committee is essential in informing the appointing entities decision making process. I also support and advocate the proactive, timely development of the committee's recommendations as the future is only certain once it has passed. Furthermore, I find the nine reasons for continuation of the committee, outlined in the presentation and document, to be in line with the DCISC charter, "...review Diablo Canyon

¹ Assembly Bill 361 (Achadjian, Chapter 399, Statutes of 2015). Retrieved from https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB361.

operations for the purpose of assessing the safety of operations and suggesting any recommendations for safe operations...”²

California’s seismically active coastline and the close proximity of nuclear facilities to populated regions dictate a greater level of safety and degree of independent review by technical experts. Access to the independent, technical expertise and plant specific experience of the DCISC members has provided significant benefit to state, local, and public entities since its formation. The presence of an independent, expert, technical perspective provides clear benefit to the public, state agencies, and local government who can engage with DCISC staff on pertinent topics through critical stages of Diablo Canyon’s operations and decommissioning.

The state, host communities, and other stakeholders have a vested interest in a public, open, safe, and timely decommissioning process. Community trust is maintained in the form of state-appointed recognized experts that review and report on relevant safety issues and topics related to Diablo Canyon. The DCISC provides a public, open approach that is explicitly inclusive, adaptive, arranged, and informed. Each year, the three public meetings are held in the local community, providing a venue that allows the public and local government to directly engage the committee and the plant operator. This inclusive process helps to achieve the essential public trust required for an extended decommissioning process.

I hope that these comments, in combination with other stakeholder’s recommendations, continue to place public health and the environment before economic interest, while respecting the authority of state and local government. I wish to express my support and gratitude to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee and their staff for the excellent work they accomplish each year in support of their charter.

Please send any correspondence related to this letter to Justin Cochran, Ph.D., Senior Nuclear Policy Advisor, California Energy Commission, MS-39, 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814-5512, or via e-mail at Justin.Cochran@energy.ca.gov.

Respectfully,



ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER
Chair and State Liaison Officer to NRC

cc: Dr. Robert J. Budnitz, Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee Member
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