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Rational Decisions

Rational decisions at the government level require quantitative comparisons of risk and benefit. Nuclear power offers massive carbon-free power to the grid at the expense of a possible (extremely rare) release of radiation; fossil fuels offer similar power to the grid at the expense of constant contributions to global climate change and pollution that already kills millions annually. And yet there are protests against keeping Diablo Canyon running, based on the religious conviction that it is much worse for one person to die of radiation exposure than for a thousand to die from pollution, heat stroke, thirst or forest fires. Like most religious convictions, this one makes no sense, is immune to reason or facts, and will kill us all if not confronted now.