

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-ESR-01
Project Title:	Energy System Reliability
TN #:	244979
Document Title:	Margaret Frerking Comments - Is DCPD continuation the most costeffective way to address near term energy needs
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Margaret Frerking
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/13/2022 3:31:39 PM
Docketed Date:	8/15/2022

*Comment Received From: Margaret Frerking
Submitted On: 8/13/2022
Docket Number: 21-ESR-01*

Is DCPD continuation the most cost-effective way to address near term energy needs

To address climate change California needs to eliminate fossil fuels from its energy budget. The long term goal is to completely eliminate fossil fuels by 2040. Green replacements for fossil fuels include renewable power, hydro power, and nuclear power among others.

The case for extending the life of DCPD is based on a projected 20% growth and the addition of a 10% contingency reserve from 2020 to 2025. Is the 20% growth in energy need reasonable. The reasons presented are extreme heat leading to need for more air conditioning and additional housing to address homelessness. Note that electrification of transportation and home heating is a shift from fossil fuel to renewable energy use and hence not a growth.

Additionally, DCPD extended operation would address the 2025 September 8 pm shortfall of about 2MW out of 50 MW (4%) due to solar energy's lack of-night time production. What is the uncertainty in this projection? Is the error bar in the projected energy significantly better than 4%.

Further there is significant excess power generated earlier in the day. Were it stored for later use it could address the shortfall. Is extending the life of DCPD the most cost-effective way to address near term energy needs? Might acceleration of storage capability be less expensive and have lower risk.

What role does nuclear power serve for the long-term plan? Nuclear power currently provides only about 10% of California's power. Fossil fuels provided 40% of power in 2020. To replace a significant fraction of fossil fuel power plants with nuclear power plants would require several additional nuclear power plants. Is the plan to build more nuclear power plants or to continue DCPD as a single one? If DCPD remains as the only nuclear power plant then, as a one-of-a-kind unit, it will likely be expensive to operate and maintain.